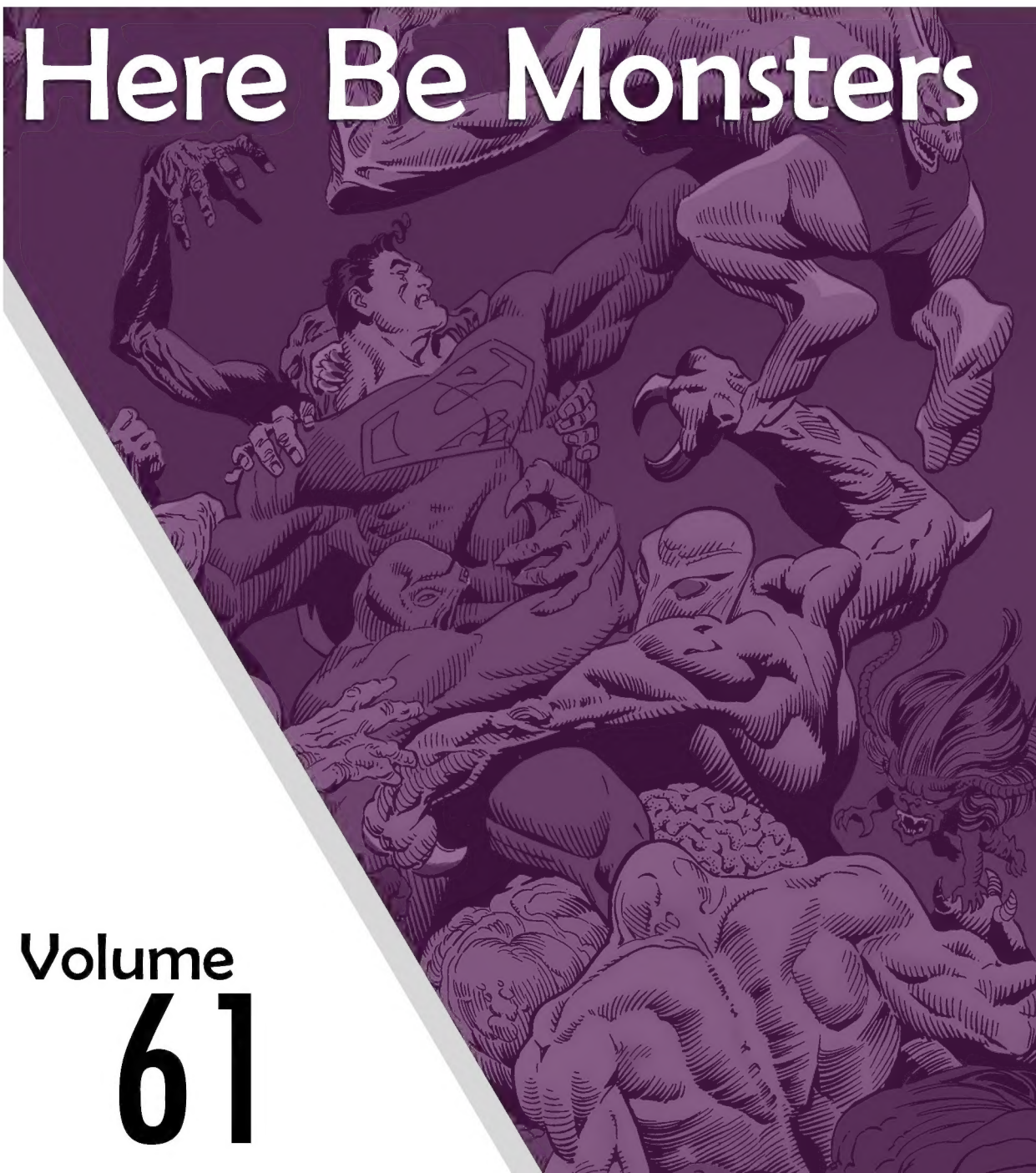
SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Here Be Monsters



Volume 61

SUPERMAN Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS Here Be Monsters 61

THE A.M. RUSH, REPLETE WITH COMMUTERS ON THEIR WAY TO WORK, BEGINS TO EASE BY NINE-THIRTY.

BY MID-MORNING, METROPOLIS'S STREETS AND BOULEVARDS ARE AGAIN CROWDED...

MOVE THAT PIECE OF JUNK!

HONK HONK

...THIS TIME BY AN ASSORTMENT OF TRUCKS, CABS AND BUSES, ALL JOCKEYING FOR SPACE ON THE BUSY THOROUGHFARES.

ISSAT A SIREEN?

NO COP'S GONNA SNEAK PAST ME ON HIS DOUGHNUT RUN!

SCRRRREEEE

SUPERMAN

Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

GUEST-STARRING THE FOREVER PEOPLE

CREATED BY JACK KIRBY

THE HAND THAT ROBS THE CRADLE!

TOM GRUMMETT - PENCILLER
DOUG HAZLEWOOD - INKER
JERRY ORDWAY - WRITER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
ALBERT DE GUZMAN - LETTERER
JENNIFER FRANK - ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN - HIGHFATHER

WE DID IT! WE'RE THROUGH THE BOOM TUBE!

BUT ARE WE IN THE RIGHT PLACE, DREAMER?

BIG BEAR DIDN'T USE THE MOTHER BOX TO PLOT OUR COURSE!

I GOT US HERE, VYKIN-- THAT'S WHAT MATTERS!

BOOM

CALM YOURSELF, BIG BEAR-- JUST SLOW THE SUPER CYCLE DOWN BEFORE WE OVERSHOOT OUR TARGET DESTINATION!

HONK HONK

I DON'T TRUST HER TO LEAD US TO THE ONE WE SEEK, DREAMER! SHE DIDN'T--

MOTHER BOX SAYS THIS IS METROPOLIS.

--MOTHER BOX IS NOT AT FAULT, MY HUSBAND! SHE *NEARLY* LOST HER EXISTENCE ONCE, PROTECTING US. *

BEEP BEEP BEEP

LET'S SAVE THIS ALL FOR THE MAN, OKAY?

HONK HONK

SERIFAN'S *RIGHT*. PERHAPS THESE FOLK WILL KNOW WHERE SUPERMAN IS.

LOOK UP IN THE SKY!

* IN THE FOREVER PEOPLE MINISERIES, 1988.

YOU *CLOWNS* CAN'T STOP UP TRAFFIC LIKE THIS! MOVE THAT VEHICLE OR I'LL HAVE IT *TOWED*!

LOOK, OFFICER--THIS IS AN EMERGENCY--WE *MUST* CONTACT SUPERMAN!

MARK, PERHAPS MOTHER BOX COULD CALM HIM BEFORE--?

PING PING

NO, LET ME...

BETTER KEEP THAT *FIST* IN YOUR POCKET, BIG GUY.

I--UHHH...

I'LL REACH INTO HIS MIND, AND MAKE HIM SEE US IN A NON-THREATENING WAY...

"...SO THAT WE MAY FIND THE MAN OF STEEL QUICKLY!"

DAILY CITY

PLANET ROOM

SAY, MISS LANE--I REALLY ADMIRED YOUR STORY ON ABUSED SPOUSES.*

*SEE CURRENT ISSUES OF MAN OF STEEL AND SUPERMAN.

I WAS SURPRISED THAT YOU DIDN'T USE ANY NAMES, THOUGH.

DIDN'T YOU AND MR. KENT TELL ME THAT YOU HELPED A FRIEND RECENTLY?

IT WOULD HAVE MADE THE STORY MORE INTIMATE AND PERSONAL, RON...

...BUT...

...IT WOULD HAVE VIOLATED THAT FRIEND'S TRUST IN ME TO USE NAMES!

BUT THE STORY COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER...

IT'S A JUDGMENT CALL, RON.

NAMING THIS COUPLE MIGHT UNDERMINE THE PROGRESS THEY'VE MADE IN DEALING WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE PROBLEMS!

GEEZ, I GUESS I CAN ADD "SENSITIVITY" TO THE LIST OF ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE YOU TWO GREAT JOURNALISTS!

AHEM! IF THE MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY IS DONE MEETING, I'D LIKE EVERYONE TO GET BACK TO WORK!

AND REMEMBER, RON--A GOOD REPORTER HAS TO TELL THE TRUTH, REGARDLESS OF WHO MIGHT GET HURT, SOMETIMES!

SORRY, MR. WHITE...

NO NEED, SON--I'M JUST TELLING IT LIKE IT IS.

SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING--ONE OF YOU CHECK IT OUT...

LOOKS AND SOUNDS LIKE THE *FOREVER PEOPLE* ARE ON THE STREET BELOW, HOLDING UP TRAFFIC. LOOKING FOR SUPERMAN!

AREN'T THEY THAT BUNCH FROM NEW GENESIS WHO HELPED, UH, SUPERMAN AGAINST BRAINIAC?*

UH-HUH.

*BACK IN OUR "PANIC IN THE SKY" STORYLINE.

I'D BETTER "FIND" SUPERMAN FOR THEM, DON'T YOU THINK?

HOW COME EVERY TIME *OLD FRIENDS* SHOW UP, I FIND MYSELF WORRIED TO DEATH OVER *YOU*?

WOW, AND YOU HAVEN'T MET *ALL* MY FRIENDS FROM *HIGH SCHOOL* YET!

DON'T WORRY--IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.

"THAT'S WHAT YOU *ALWAYS* SAY!"

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE THAT GUY'S INSURANCE COMPANY VERY HAPPY, BIG BEAR!

SUPERMAN! WE *NEED* YOUR HELP...

SUPERMAN-- MY CHILD MAYA-- SHE'S BEEN *TAKEN* FROM ME.

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER, PLEASE-- HOW CAN I HELP?

DARKSEID HAS HER--ONLY *YOU* POSSESS THE STRENGTH--THE COURAGE! YOU *MUST* HELP!

BACK DOWN, BIG GUY--OF *COURSE* I'LL DO WHAT I CAN...

YOU SEE, BIG BEAR? I *TOLD* YOU HE WOULD AID OUR SEARCH.

YOU WERE RIGHT, MARK--WITH SUPERMAN AT OUR SIDE, WE'LL DEFY DARKSEID AND HIS MINIONS TO GET MY DAUGHTER *BACK*!

HOLD ON, ALL OF YOU--WE'LL NEED *INFORMATION*, AND MAYBE SOME BACK-UP HELP.

THE *JUSTICE LEAGUE* COULD...

MOTHER BOX SUPPLIES ALL THE INFORMATION WE NEED TO FACE *HIS* EVIL.

YOU ARE TOO RELIANT ON HER, VYKIN. WE *ALL* WERE.

WE MUST TRUST HER AGAIN--

--FOR ONLY MOTHER BOX CAN TRANSPORT US SAFELY PAST DARKSEID'S MANY DEFENSES!

WAIT, ALL OF YOU--WE CAN'T RUN OFF HALF-COCKED--!

SCREEEEEEE

MOTHER BOX HAS COORDINATED OUR DESTINATION POINT, AND ALREADY OPENS OUR BOOM TUBE!

QUICKLY! EVERYONE INTO THE SUPER-CYCLE! ARE YOU *WITH* US, SUPERMAN?

BY GREAT HIGHFATHER, I SHALL KEEP MY HAND POISED OVER THE *PHASE CONTROLS*, VYKIN, IN CASE OF TREACHERY.

HOP ABOARD, FRIEND.

WHERE WILL THIS TUBE TAKE US?

BOOOM

TO THE EVIL EMPIRE OF *APOKOLIPS*, SUPERMAN!

OKAY, OKAY--I'M *IN*. I ONLY *HOPE* YOUR MOTHER BOX HAS A *PLAN* FOR ONCE WE GET THERE...

"...THE SAYING 'FOOLS RUSH IN--WHERE ANGELS FEAR TO TREAD,' *DOES* COME TO MIND."

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT--A *SONIC BOOM*?

WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?

WHO *CARES*--TRAFFIC'S *CLEAR* AGAIN!

GOD, HOW MUCH *LONGER* CAN I *STAND* TO WATCH HIM RUSH OFF LIKE THAT...

...HEAD FIRST INTO WHO *KNOWS* WHAT?

AS LONG AS I'M ALONG FOR THE RIDE-- CAN YOU TELL ME *WHY* YOU THINK DARKSEID'S INVOLVED?

DID YOU *SEE* HIM?

DARKSEID HAS TRIED TO TAKE MAYA *BEFORE*...*

AFTER *THAT* INCIDENT, WE LEFT THE *CITY* WE HAD BEEN LIVING IN, AND TRAVELED TO A PLACE *NORTH* OF METROPOLIS.

MOTHER BOX LED US TO A FANTASTIC COMPLEX OF DWELLINGS THAT SEEMED TO GROW RIGHT OUT OF THE TREES THEMSELVES.

YOU WERE LIVING IN *HABITAT*?

IF THAT IS ITS NAME, YES.

"IT WAS ABANDONED, SO WE TOOK UP RESIDENCE."

"TIME PASSED BLISSFULLY BY UNTIL TWO NIGHTS AGO..."

"WHILE WE ALL SLEPT, MAYA WAS SNATCHED FROM HER BED!"

MOTHER BOX FAILED TO WARN US.

OR HER WARNINGS FELL ON *DEAF* EARS.

MAYBE YOU WERE ALL *DRUGGED* BY THE ABDUCTORS?

*AS DETAILED IN THE NEW GODS #24-25 (SECOND SERIES)

BOOOOM

PERHAPS. THAT WOULD EXONERATE MOTHER BOX.

:HMMPH: SHE BROUGHT US IN PRETTY FAR FROM THE GROUND!

AHEAD OF US LIES THE FESTERING SURFACE OF *APOKOLIPS!*

I *RECOGNIZE* THE FIERY *SLAG PITS* ANYWHERE-- NOT THAT I COULD *EASILY* FORGET ANYTHING ABOUT THIS PLACE.*

*SUPERMAN WAS ONCE TRAPPED ON APOKOLIPS, IN THE SECTOR KNOWN AS ARMAGETTO, IN *ADVENTURES* #426.

HOLD ONTO YOUR TEETH. IT'S GOING TO BE ROUGH!

CHOOOM

INITIATE *EMERGENCY PHASE-OUT*-- DOG CAVALRY'S COMING!

WE CAN PASS RIGHT THROUGH THEM--LIKE GHOSTS!

SUPERMAN'S TAKING THE DIRECT APPROACH!

GROWL! URK!

:UGHN: THIS ONE HOLDS THE POWER OF ORION HIMSELF!

CHOOM

SO MUCH FOR THE DOG SOLDIERS...

...I JUST WISH THE FOREVER PEOPLE HADN'T BEEN IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET US HERE.

STORMING DARKSEID'S STRONGHOLD REQUIRES A PLAN!

ALL DWELLERS--STAY INDOORS.

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP MOVING, FOLKS--WE'VE ALREADY LOST ALL HOPE OF SURPRISING DARKSEID!

DIG IT, SUPEY--METAL-HEAD TRASHED THE SUPER-CYCLE!

BIG BEAR--WE MUST JOIN TOGETHER...

MARK IS RIGHT, MY LOVE!

THESE AUTOMATIONS CAN'T KEEP ME FROM MY CHILD!

INTRUDERS IDENTIFIED--AND TARGETED.

:OOOF:! LOOK OUT, FRIENDS--I'M ABOUT TO JOIN YOU AFTER ALL!

MY HEAT VISION REDUCES MOST METALS TO THE CONSISTENCY OF A "BIG BELLY" MALT, BUT IT'S NOT HAVING ANY EFFECT HERE!

HURRY, VYKIN!

WHOOF!

LET MOTHER BOX RISE UP, AND SEND THE SIGNAL...

AS WE PLACE OUR HANDS TOGETHER, LET THE WORD BRING HIM FORTH IN OUR PLACE...

TAARU!

CRACKLE!

GREETINGS, MAN OF STEEL!

IT SEEMS MY FRIENDS SUMMONED ME WITH LITTLE TIME TO SPARE!

YOU'RE UGHNN! A WELCOME SIGHT, INFINITY MAN!

THOSE INFINI-BEAMS OF YOURS SURE DO THE TRICK!

ALL DWELLERS--STAY INDOORS--BY ORDERS OF GREAT DARKSEID!

FWAM!

QUICK--! POUND IT INTO SCRAP!

DEATH TO ALL WHO SERVE DARKSEID!

IT SEEMS ARMAGETTO'S CITIZENS REJOICE IN THEIR GUARD'S DESTRUCTION!

LET'S GIVE THEM *MORE* TO REJOICE ABOUT, SHALL WE?

GLADLY.

THWACK!

WE *CAN'T* AFFORD TO STAND AROUND IN THE *OPEN* LIKE THIS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA *WHERE* MAYA IS BEING HELD? IF WE--

MY THOUGHT WAVES CAN BE *TUNED* TO *HERS*-- BUT FIRST WE MUST DEAL WITH MORE OF APOKOLIPS'S *ARMIES*!

STOP THE INTRUDERS!

LET'S GIVE THE POOR WRETCHES WHO LIVE UNDER THE *HEEL* OF DARKSEID A LITTLE *INSPIRATION* HERE!

ALREADY, THEY SWARM ON THE FALLEN PARADEMONS!

"STIRRING UP THIS HORNET'S NEST IS BOUND TO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF DARKSEID HIMSELF."

YESSSSS. MY "FEAR SIPHON" IS RECEIVING THEIR HEIGHTENED EMOTIONS.

THESE "HUNGER DOGS" FROM ARMAGETTO FEAR LIFE SO MUCH MORE THAN DEATH...

...BUT THIS DEVICE DEPRIVES THEM OF THE REFUGE OF DEATH, SO THAT I MAY PARTAKE IN THEIR SUFFERING!

WHAT HAVE YOUR DECEPTIONS BROUGHT DOWN UPON US NOW?

SMAK!

WELL, DeSAAD?

G-GREAT DARKSEID!

ANSWER ME, YOU DEVIOUS WRETCH!

I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO DISPLEASE, SIRE?

MANY DECEPTIONS LIE BEHIND THOSE EYES OF YOURS, BUT IN THIS SPECIFIC MATTER, I SENSE YOUR IGNORANCE!

I KNOW NOT WHAT M'LORD MEANS...

EARTH'S PROTECTOR SUPERMAN, ALONG WITH THE INFINITY MAN, HAS FUELED INSURRECTION IN SLUM AREA TEN!

ORDER MUST BE RESTORED.

"THIS IS ONE HEPCAT--"

--I MEAN, THE KIDS ABSOLUTELY CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF THIS GUY!

GENTLEMEN, WE STAND ON THE GROUND FLOOR WITH THIS PHENOMENON.

WE'RE TALKING TV-- WE'RE TALKING MERCHANDISING-- WE'RE TALKING LIVE-ACTION MOVIES!

TURTLE BOY

WE'RE GETTING CARRIED AWAY, AREN'T WE, MR. EDGE?

YOU WANT TO PUT "TURTLE-BOY" IN HIS OWN WGBS SATURDAY MORNING TV SHOW.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

US, HE MEANS.

SURE, SURE. NO ONE'S LEAVING YOU OUT, MR. OLSEN--YOU'RE OUR STAR!

AS FOR YOU, MONTY-- I FEEL I CAN CALL YOU MONTY...

TURTL

...MY NETWORK WILL CO-PRODUCE THE "TURTLE-BOY" SHOW WITH YOUR "TITANO'S" PIZZA CHAIN.

DON'T FORGET WE MADE A STAR OUT OF "UNCLE WALDO," AND LOOK HOW SUCCESSFUL THAT SHOW WAS!

YEAH, UNTIL HE WENT NUTS AND, AS THE PRANKSTER, TRIED TO KILL YOUR SON, MORGAN!*

*WAY BACK IN SUPERMAN #16

YES-- UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.

I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK IT PRESUMPTUOUS, BUT I'VE HAD SOME CONTRACTS DRAWN UP.

AND PLEASE CALL ME VINNIE.

CONTRAC

CO-PRODUCING, EH? WELL, VINNIE, COUNT TITANO'S PIZZA IN!

UH, MONTY-- SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE YOUR LAWYER READ IT FIRST?

"I REALLY FEEL WE CAN TRUST MR. EDGE TO LOOK AFTER ALL OUR BEST INTERESTS. THE MAN KNOWS TV, JIM."

THESE PARADEMONS JUST DON'T KNOW WHEN TO LIE DOWN, I-MAN!

GREAT HIGHFATHER! DARKSEID'S "FINDER BEAMS"-- IT'S THE OMEGA EFFECT!

I SEE THEM, BUT THEY'RE TOO QUI--

DARKSEID HAS AIDED OUR CAUSE, BY ELIMINATING HALF OUR BATTLE!

MORE "FINDER BEAMS," INFINITY MAN!

I HAVE FELT THE EFFECT OF THE *OMEGA* ENERGY IN THE PAST.*

DARKSEID ONCE USED THE POWER TO BANISH ME FROM THIS WORLD!*

YOU CANNOT OUTRUN "FINDER BEAMS"--NO ONE EVER HAS!

*IN THE FOREVER PEOPLE #3 (FIRST SERIES)

I FOUND MY WAY BACK AFTER MANY LONG MONTHS OUT OF CONTACT WITH MY FRIENDS-- I *CAN'T* FAIL THEM AGA--

"I HAVE HIM! NOW, LET ORDER BE RESTORED TO ARMAGETTO..."

...SUCH IS THE WISH OF *DARKSEID.*

I--; UGHN;--

YOU WILL *SPEAK* WHEN I *ADDRESS* YOU, SUPERMAN-- *FOR NOW* MY INTEREST IS IN THE INFINITY MAN!

WHERE--? DARKSEID'S *LAIR!* I *MUST*--

YOU'LL DO *NOTHING*, WATCHDOG. I WISH CONGRESS WITH YOUR CHARGES-- THE FOREVER PEOPLE...

...AND IF YOU *WON'T* BRING THEM FORTH *WILLINGLY*--!

YOU CANNOT RESIST THE OMEGA ENERGIES.

NO! PLEASE--

HE'S *MINE!*

WELCOME, *PUPS.*

WHERE IS THE *CHILD*, YOU MONSTER?

STAND DOWN, MARK MOONRIDER-- I KNOW NOT WHAT YOU BABBLE ON ABOUT!

YOU REFER TO THE CHILD OF BEAUTIFUL DREAMER AND BIG BEAR? IS THAT WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO DISRUPT ARMAGETTO?

HEAR THIS--

--I DID *NOT* ORDER THIS THING TO BE *DONE*...

"...BUT I BELIEVE I KNOW WHO DID."

LOOKS LIKE YOUR GRANNY WAS RIGHT IN BRINGING YOU HERE!

I HAVE NOT WITNESSED SUCH POWER IN ONE SO YOUNG--SINCE I TRAINED DARKSEID'S OWN WHELPS!

SEEING AS HOW I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO EVISCERATE MY GUARD UNIT, I CAN SEE IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO LEARN OBEDIENCE!

COME HERE, CHILD, AND TAKE YOUR LUMPS!

WHEN YOU LEAVE MY ORPHANAGE, YOU'LL BE FIT TO ASSUME BIG BARDA'S VACANT SLOT WITH MY FEMALE FURIES!

WHU--? WHO DARES?

I DARE, GRANNY GOODNESS. THE CHILD IS FREE TO GO.

M'LORD--NO! I ONLY SOUGHT TO PROVE TO YOU THAT OLD GRANNY HASN'T LOST HER TOUCH, LIKE YOU SAID I HAD!

YOU HEARD DARKSEID, "GRANNY." IT'S OVER!

PRAISE HIGHFATHER--YOU'RE SAFE NOW, MAYA!

CEASE YOUR BRAVADO, SUPERMAN. YOU HAVE NOT GAINED ANYTHING THAT I DID NOT WILLINGLY GIVE UP.

POINT TAKEN. NOW ARE WE FREE TO LEAVE?

NO! NOT WITH THE CHILD!

HER DESTINY IS WITH ME, UNDER MY TUTELAGE!

DID GREAT DARKSEID NOT EXPRESS INTEREST IN THE CHILD HIMSELF ON PAST OCCASIONS?

YOU DID THIS THING WITHOUT MY ORDER!

I HAVE GUARANTEED THEIR SAFE PASSAGE, GRANNY. THEY LEAVE WITH THE CHILD!

Y-YES, LORD!

KNOW YOU THIS--WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL BE ON MY TERMS, AND NO MERCY WILL BE SHOWN!

MY WORDS ARE FOR YOU AS WELL, KRYPTONIAN--THERE IS UNFINISHED BUSINESS BETWEEN US!

THE CHILD SHALL BE MONITORED, GRANNY--FROM AFAR!

MAYA HOLDS THE KEY TO NEW GENESIS'S FUTURE, BUT THERE ARE MANY TABLEAUX LEFT TO BE PLAYED OUT UNTIL THEN.

AS YOU WISH, GREAT MASTER.

I INTERCEPTED YOUR TRANSPORT BEAM, AND BROUGHT YOU HERE, MY CHILDREN!

THIS IS AWFULLY FAMILIAR...

WHAT TRICKERY IS THIS?

DARKSEID HAS SENT US TO NEW GENESIS?

FAR OUT! LOOK WHO'S HERE TO GREET US!

GREAT HIGHFATHER--IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...

IT MAKES MY HEART HEAVY TO THINK OF HOW LONG, MARK MOONRIDER. HELLO, KAL-EL.

LITTLE MAYA NEEDN'T FEAR HIGHFATHER. HE IS SORT OF HER GRAND-FATHER...

THE CHILD HAS SUFFERED UNTOLD TRAUMA AT THE HANDS OF GRANNY GOODNESS.

POOR CHILD.

I PRAY THAT YOU ALL WILL REMAIN HERE ON NEW GENESIS, SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO LOVE YOU.

I KNOW HIGHFATHER DIDN'T MEAN TO INCLUDE ME--BUT THE THOUGHT OF LIVING HERE IS INTRIGUING.

WALKING AMONG THESE SUPER-FOLK, I'D PROBABLY BE CONSIDERED AN ORDINARY JOE!

WHO AM I KIDDING? THESE PEOPLE ARE GODS!

AND I DON'T REALLY THINK LOIS COULD DO WITHOUT HER SUNDAY EDITION OF THE TIMES!

IS EARTH STILL AS EXCITING TO YOU AS IT WAS WHEN YOU FIRST SET FOOT ON HER?

YOU DO NOT YEARN FOR WHAT IS HERE?

WOULD MAYA NOT BENEFIT FROM *ALL* WE HAVE TO OFFER HER?

RECENTLY, WE *HAVE* ONLY BEEN LIVING ON THE *FRINGES* OF HUMANITY.

MOTHER BOX SEEMS TO THINK MAYA WOULD BE SAFER *HERE*, AMONG THE RESIDENTS OF SUPERTOWN...

I KINDA MISS THE INTERACTION WITH OTHER FOLKS.

IN THAT PLACE SUPERMAN CALLED "HABITAT" I FOUND MYSELF TALKING TO SQUIRRELS MORE OFTEN THAN I'D LIKE TO ADMIT TO!

YOU WILL STAY?

WE'LL GIVE IT A SHOT, "POPS"-- *IF* YOU CAN FIND A WAY FOR US TO RETRIEVE OUR SUPER-CYCLE FROM APOKOLIPS!

MOTHER BOX IS ALREADY WORKING ON THE COORDINATES, BEAR!

EXCUSE ME, FOLKS, BUT I THINK MY WORK'S *DONE* HERE--NOT THAT THERE WAS *MUCH* FOR ME TO DO.

DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE YOUR IMPACT ON THIS DAY'S EVENTS, SUPERMAN.

TIME AND AGAIN, YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF A WORTHY ADVERSARY TO DARKSEID.

I STRONGLY SUSPECT THIS IS WHY HE RELEASED THE CHILD AND ALLOWED YOU ALL SAFE PASSAGE OFF APOKOLIPS.

BOOOM

I-- DON'T KNOW, BUT I APPRECIATE YOUR SAYING THAT.

GOODBYE, AND GODSPEED.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, DARKSEID STILL THINKS US ALL UNWORTHY *PUPS*-- EVEN INFINITY MAN DOESN'T FAZE HIM...

HE'LL REGRET UNDERESTIMATING US, IF HE *EVER* TOUCHES MY DAUGHTER AGAIN!

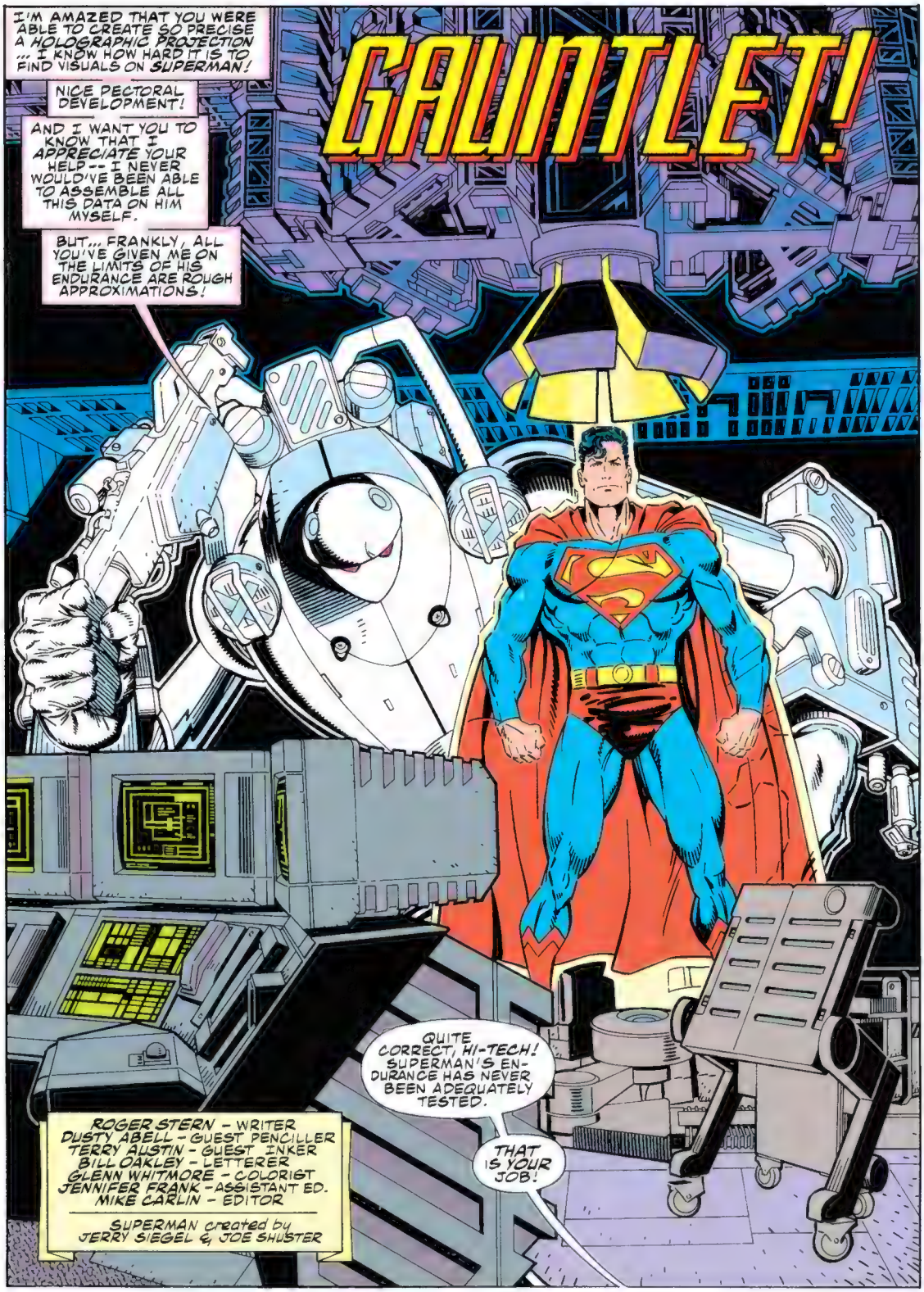
MAN O' MAN, WHAT A SIGHT! HOME SWEET HOME!

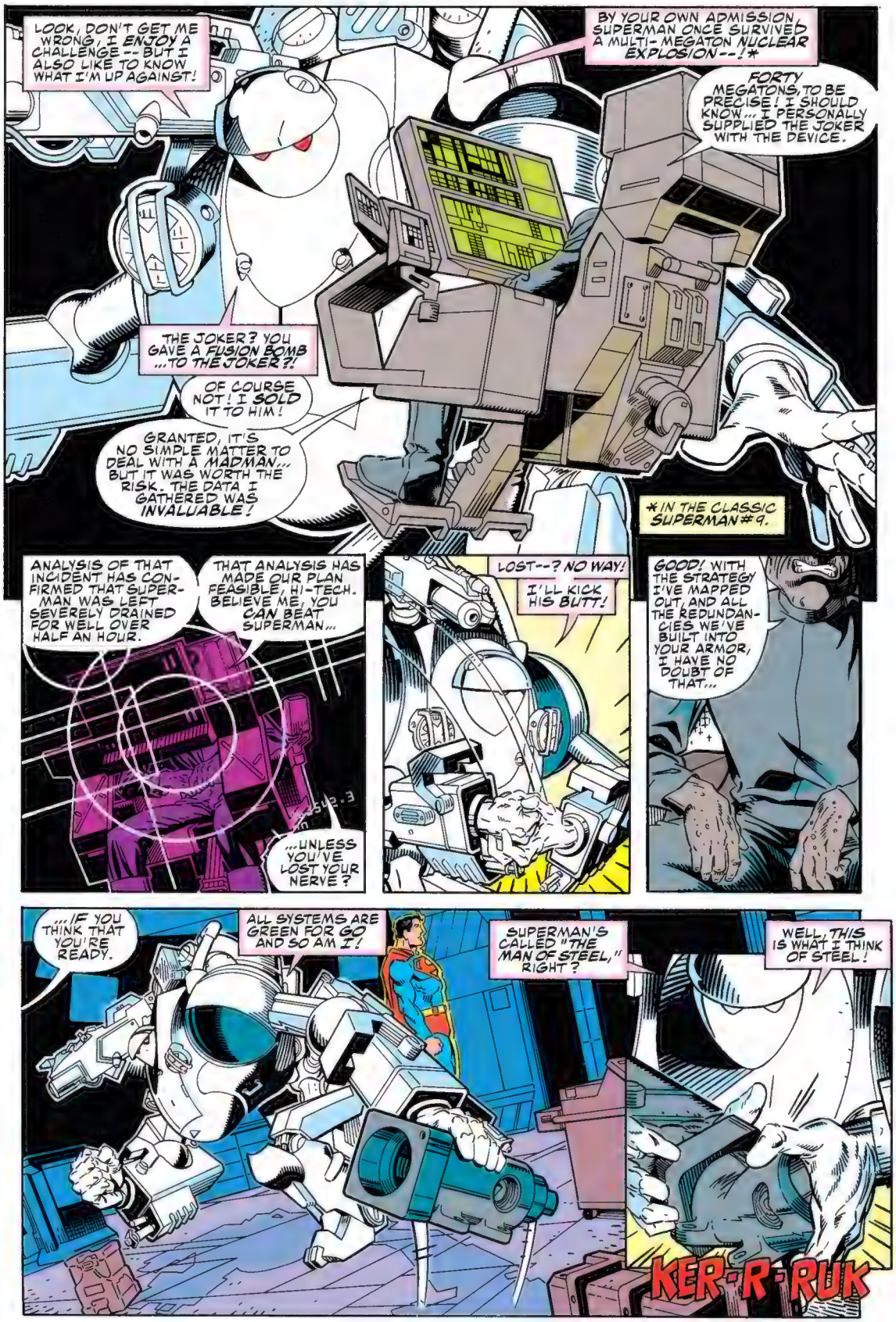
BOOOM

APOKOLIPS IS UNRELENTINGLY CORRUPT, AND SUPERTOWN IS WAY TOO PERFECT-LOOKING!

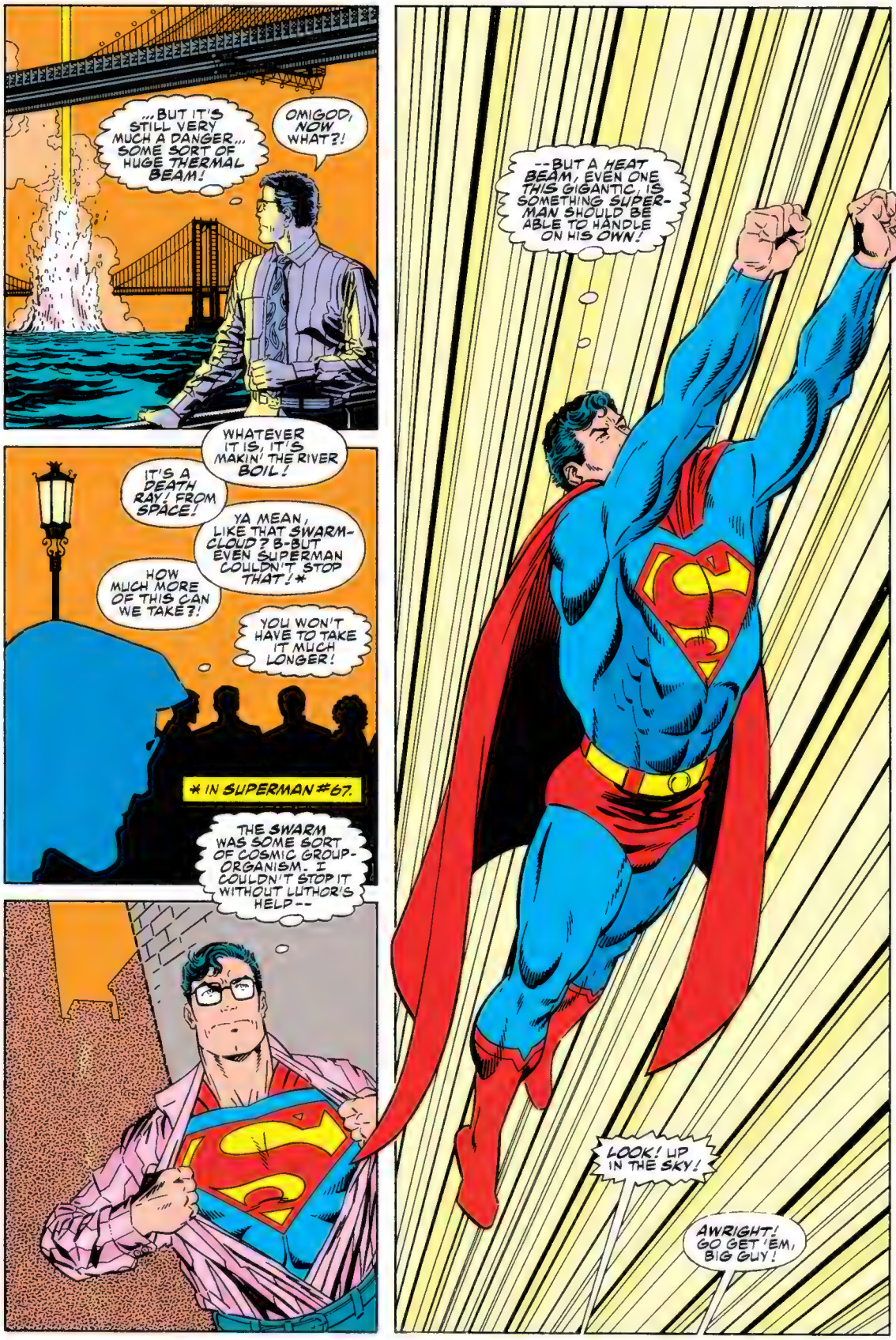
GIVE ME GOOD, OLD, *BORING* METROPOLIS ANY DAY!

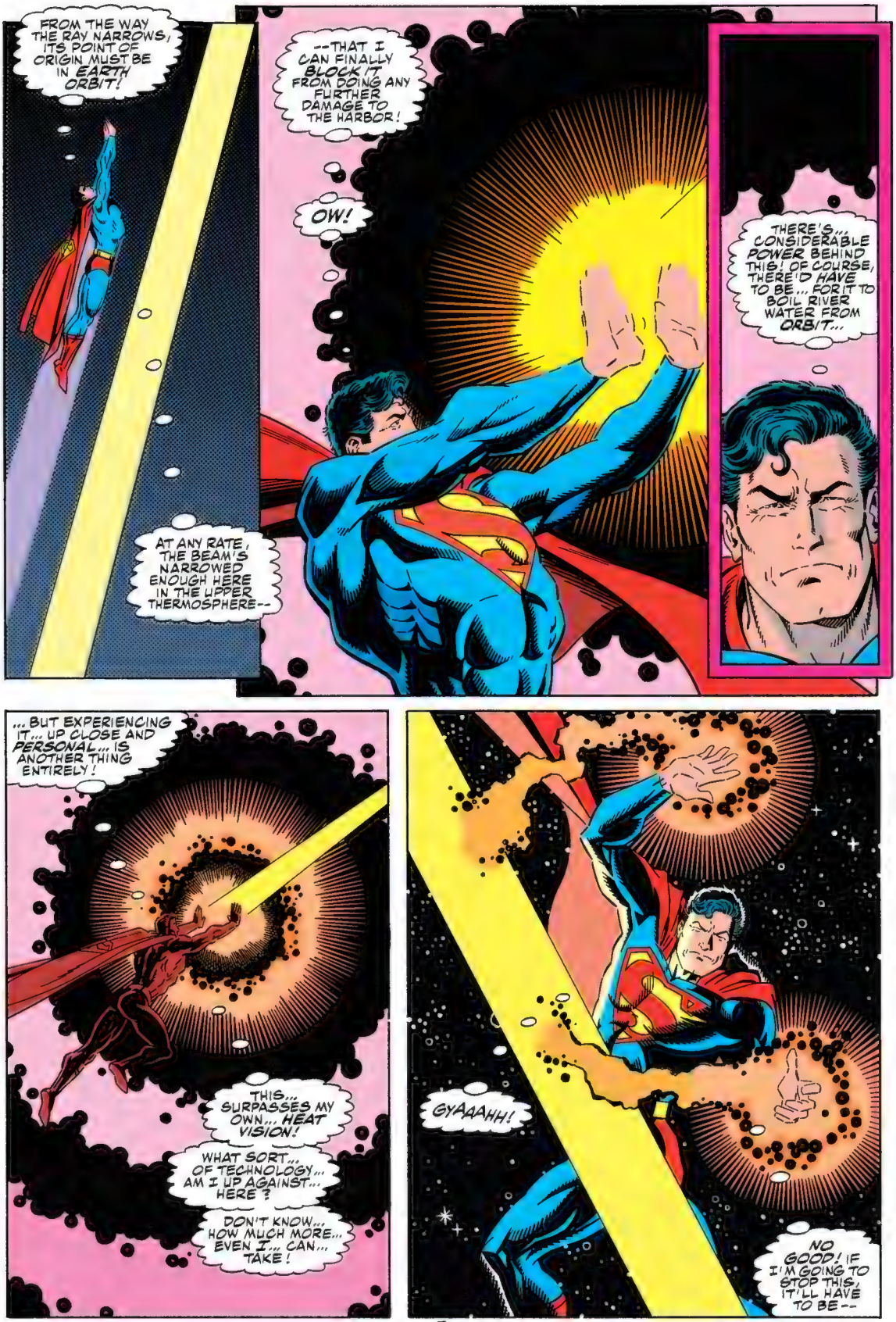
NEXT WEEK IN ACTION #682-- "HI-TECH" STRIKES! AND THEN NEXT MONTH BACK HERE, BORING OL' METROPOLIS GETS TURNED ON ITS EAR, AS THAT IMP FROM THE FIFTH DIMENSION RETURNS TO PLAGUE SUPERMAN! BE THERE!

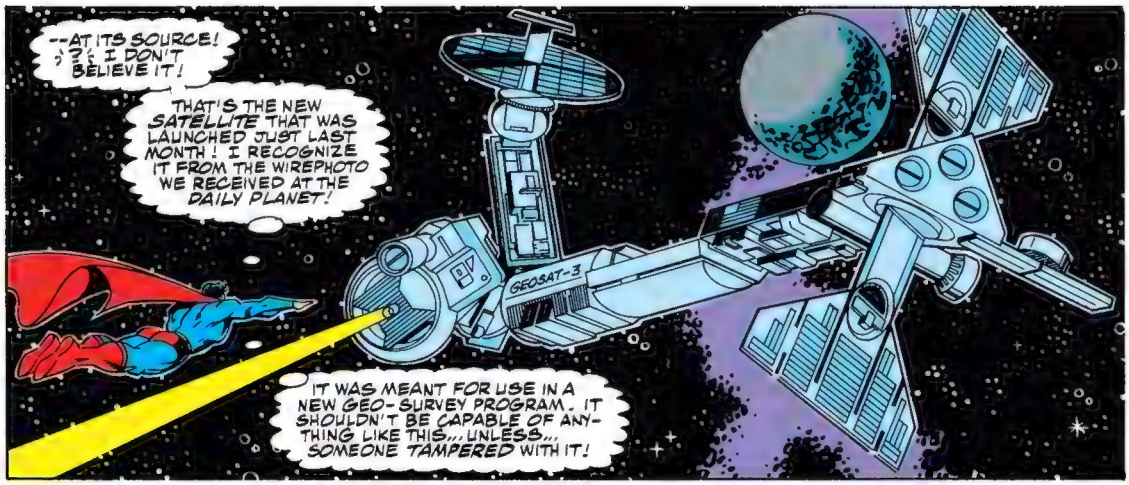

GAUNTLET!
I'M AMAZED THAT YOU WERE ABLE TO CREATE SO PRECISE A HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTION ... I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO FIND VISUALS ON SUPERMAN!
NICE PECTORAL DEVELOPMENT!
AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP -- I NEVER WOULD'VE BEEN ABLE TO ASSEMBLE ALL THIS DATA ON HIM MYSELF.
BUT... FRANKLY, ALL YOU'VE GIVEN ME ON THE LIMITS OF HIS ENDURANCE ARE ROUGH APPROXIMATIONS!
QUITE CORRECT, HI-TECH! SUPERMAN'S ENDURANCE HAS NEVER BEEN ADEQUATELY TESTED.
THAT IS YOUR JOB!
ROGER STERN - WRITER
DUSTY ABELL - GUEST PENCILLER
TERRY AUSTIN - GUEST INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORIST
JENNIFER FRANK - ASSISTANT ED.
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

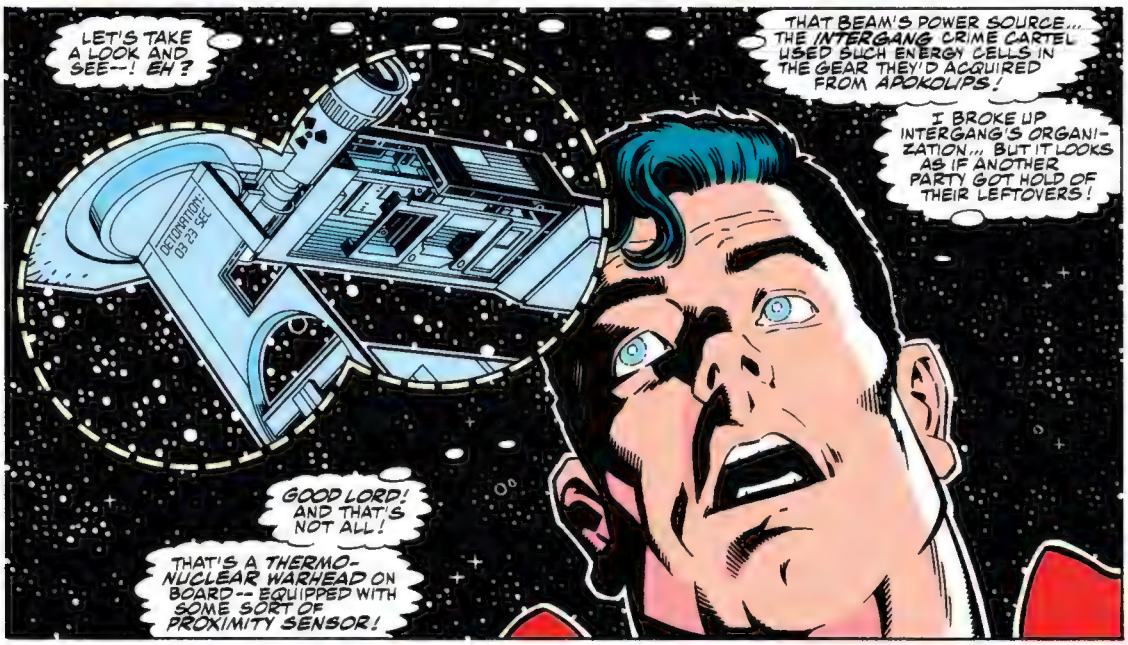

LOOK, DON'T GET ME WRONG, I ENJOY A CHALLENGE -- BUT I ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHAT I'M UP AGAINST!
BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION, SUPERMAN ONCE SURVIVED A MULTI-MEGATON NUCLEAR EXPLOSION--!*
FORTY MEGATONS, TO BE PRECISE! I SHOULD KNOW... I PERSONALLY SUPPLIED THE JOKER WITH THE DEVICE.
THE JOKER? YOU GAVE A FUSION BOMB ...TO THE JOKER?!
OF COURSE NOT! I SOLD IT TO HIM!
GRANTED, IT'S NO SIMPLE MATTER TO DEAL WITH A MADMAN... BUT IT WAS WORTH THE RISK. THE DATA I GATHERED WAS INVALUABLE!
*IN THE CLASSIC SUPERMAN #9.
ANALYSIS OF THAT INCIDENT HAS CONFIRMED THAT SUPERMAN WAS LEFT SEVERELY DRAINED FOR WELL OVER HALF AN HOUR.
THAT ANALYSIS HAS MADE OUR PLAN FEASIBLE, HI-TECH. BELIEVE ME, YOU CAN BEAT SUPERMAN...
...UNLESS YOU'VE LOST YOUR NERVE?
LOST--? NO WAY! I'LL KICK HIS BUTT!
GOOD! WITH THE STRATEGY I'VE MAPPED OUT, AND ALL THE REDUNDANCIES WE'VE BUILT INTO YOUR ARMOR, I HAVE NO DOUBT OF THAT...
...IF YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE READY.
ALL SYSTEMS ARE GREEN FOR GO AND SO AM I!
SUPERMAN'S CALLED "THE MAN OF STEEL," RIGHT?
WELL, THIS IS WHAT I THINK OF STEEL!
KER-R-RUK

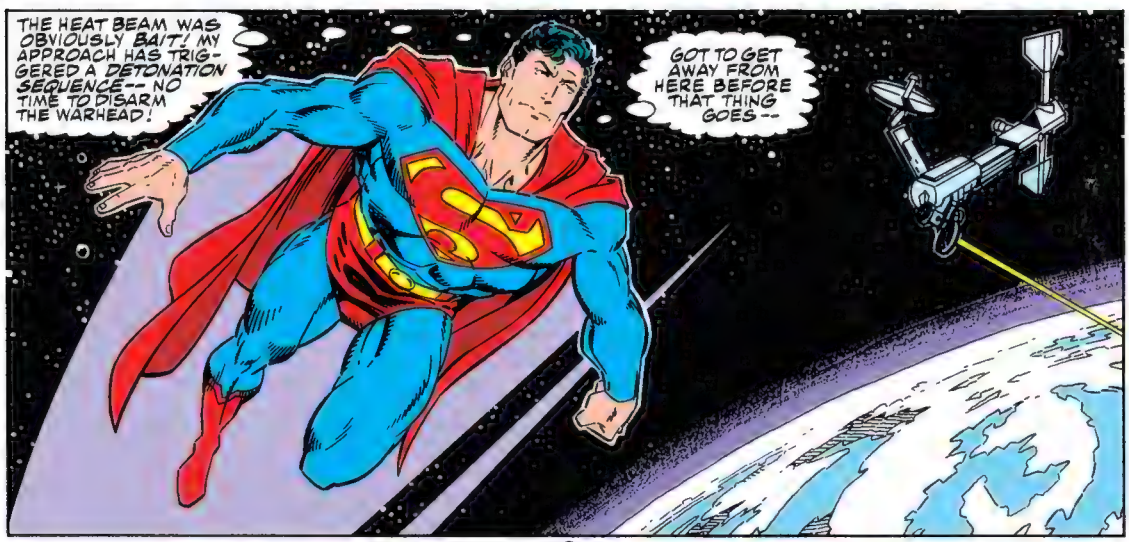
WHEN CAN I TAKE HIM ON?
PATIENCE, HI-TECH...
KLUNK!
...SUPERMAN IS A GOOD DEAL MORE RESILIENT. MY STUDIES INDICATE THAT HIS GREAT POWER IS BOTH DERIVED FROM AND RENEWED BY SOLAR ENERGY.
WE MUST DENY HIM THAT ENERGY, IF YOU ARE TO SUCCEED. EVERYTHING IS IN PLACE. ALL WE HAVE TO DO NOW--
"--IS WAIT FOR THE SUN TO SET OVER METROPOLIS! THAT IS THE CITY MOST DEAR TO HIM... THAT IS WHERE WE SHALL STRIKE FIRST!"
BEAUTIFUL DAY, WASN'T IT, MR. KENT?
THAT IT WAS, ARTIE!
WHERE'S MIZ LANE THIS EVENIN'?
LOIS IS CHASING DOWN A STORY.
YOU REPORTERS! ALWAYS ON TH' GO!
HEY, YOU TWO ARE STILL ENGAGED, AIN'TCHA?
HOT FRESH 60¢
THAT WE ARE.
YA SET A DATE YET? FER THE WEDDIN', I MEAN.
NOT YET. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO DECIDE--!
WHAT IN THE--?!
HOLY GEEZ! WUZZAT?! SOMEBODY SET OFF A NUKE?
NO... THAT'S NO BOMB...


...BUT IT'S STILL VERY MUCH A DANGER... SOME SORT OF HUGE THERMAL BEAM!
OMIGOD, NOW WHAT?!
--BUT A HEAT BEAM, EVEN ONE THIS GIGANTIC, IS SOMETHING SUPERMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE ON HIS OWN!
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S MAKIN' THE RIVER BOIL!
IT'S A DEATH RAY! FROM SPACE!
YA MEAN, LIKE THAT SWARM-CLOUD? B-BUT EVEN SUPERMAN COULDN'T STOP THAT!*
HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS CAN WE TAKE?!
YOU WON'T HAVE TO TAKE IT MUCH LONGER!
* IN SUPERMAN #67.
THE SWARM WAS SOME SORT OF COSMIC GROUP-ORGANISM. I COULDN'T STOP IT WITHOUT LUTHOR'S HELP--
LOOK! UP IN THE SKY!
AWRIGHT! GO GET 'EM, BIG GUY!

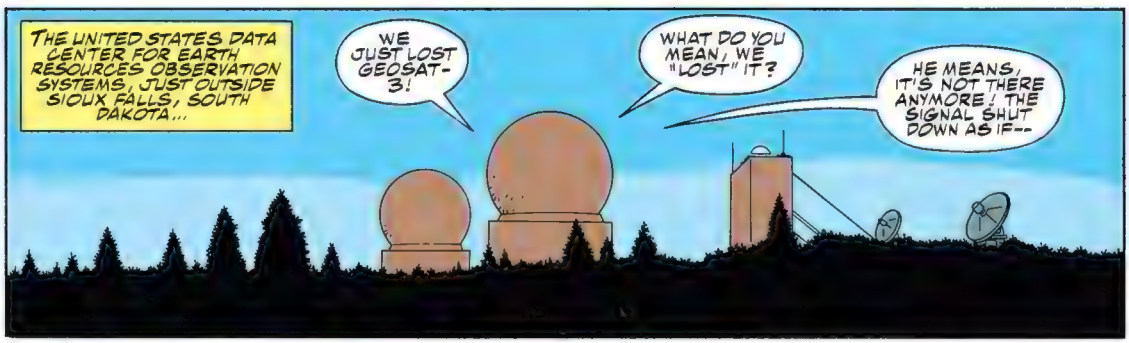

FROM THE WAY THE RAY NARROWS, ITS POINT OF ORIGIN MUST BE IN EARTH ORBIT!
AT ANY RATE, THE BEAM'S NARROWED ENOUGH HERE IN THE UPPER THERMOSPHERE--
--THAT I CAN FINALLY BLOCK IT FROM DOING ANY FURTHER DAMAGE TO THE HARBOR!
OW!
THERE'S... CONSIDERABLE POWER BEHIND THIS! OF COURSE, THERE'D HAVE TO BE... FOR IT TO BOIL RIVER WATER FROM ORBIT...
...BUT EXPERIENCING IT... UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL... IS ANOTHER THING ENTIRELY!
THIS... SURPASSES MY OWN... HEAT VISION!
WHAT SORT... OF TECHNOLOGY... AM I UP AGAINST... HERE?
DON'T KNOW... HOW MUCH MORE... EVEN I... CAN... TAKE!
GYAAAHH!
NO GOOD! IF I'M GOING TO STOP THIS, IT'LL HAVE TO BE--

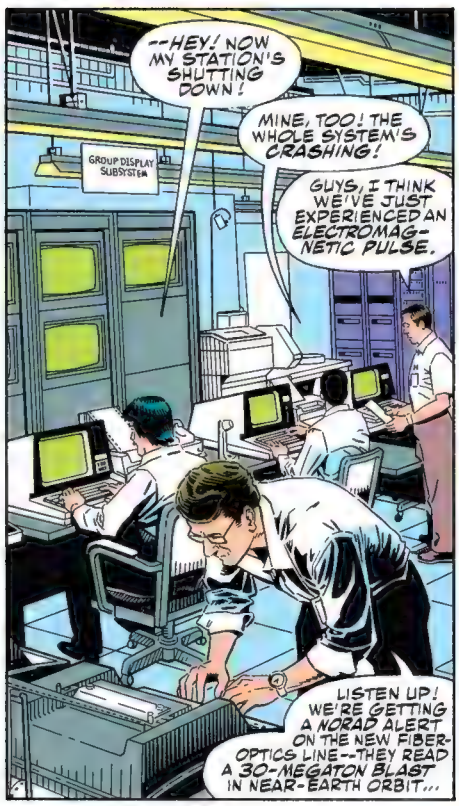

--AT ITS SOURCE! ?! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
THAT'S THE NEW SATELLITE THAT WAS LAUNCHED JUST LAST MONTH! I RECOGNIZE IT FROM THE WIREPHOTO WE RECEIVED AT THE DAILY PLANET!
GEOSAT-3
IT WAS MEANT FOR USE IN A NEW GEO-SURVEY PROGRAM. IT SHOULDN'T BE CAPABLE OF ANY-THING LIKE THIS... UNLESS... SOMEONE TAMPERED WITH IT!

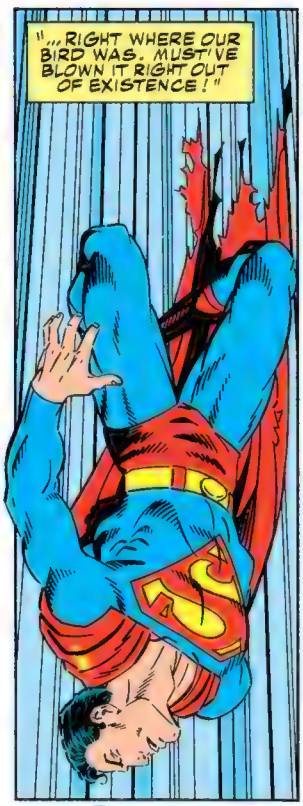

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AND SEE--! EH?
DETONATION: 09 23 SEC
THAT BEAM'S POWER SOURCE... THE INTERGANG CRIME CARTEL USED SUCH ENERGY CELLS IN THE GEAR THEY'D ACQUIRED FROM APOKOLIPS!
I BROKE UP INTERGANG'S ORGANI-ZATION... BUT IT LOOKS AS IF ANOTHER PARTY GOT HOLD OF THEIR LEFTOVERS!
GOOD LORD! AND THAT'S NOT ALL!
THAT'S A THERMO-NUCLEAR WARHEAD ON BOARD -- EQUIPPED WITH SOME SORT OF PROXIMITY SENSOR!

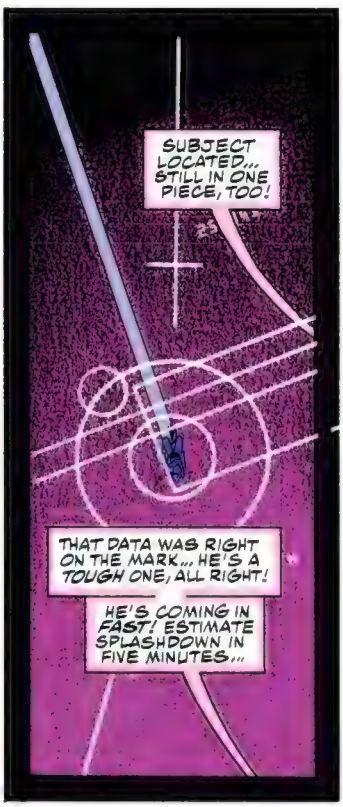

THE HEAT BEAM WAS OBVIOUSLY BAIT! MY APPROACH HAS TRIG-GERED A DETONATION SEQUENCE -- NO TIME TO DISARM THE WARHEAD!
GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE THAT THING GOES --

--OFFFF!


THE UNITED STATES DATA CENTER FOR EARTH RESOURCES OBSERVATION SYSTEMS, JUST OUTSIDE SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA...
WE JUST LOST GEOSAT-3!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE "LOST" IT?
HE MEANS, IT'S NOT THERE ANYMORE! THE SIGNAL SHUT DOWN AS IF--


--HEY! NOW MY STATION'S SHUTTING DOWN!
MINE, TOO! THE WHOLE SYSTEM'S CRASHING!
GROUP DISPLAY SUBSYSTEM
GUYS, I THINK WE'VE JUST EXPERIENCED AN ELECTROMAGNETIC PULSE.
LISTEN UP! WE'RE GETTING A NORAD ALERT ON THE NEW FIBER-OPTICS LINE--THEY READ A 30-MEGATON BLAST IN NEAR-EARTH ORBIT...


"...RIGHT WHERE OUR BIRD WAS. MUST'VE BLOWN IT RIGHT OUT OF EXISTENCE!"

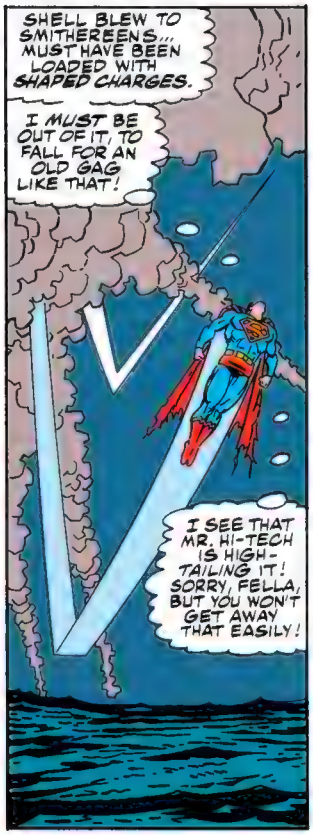

SUBJECT LOCATED... STILL IN ONE PIECE, TOO!
THAT DATA WAS RIGHT ON THE MARK... HE'S A TOUGH ONE, ALL RIGHT!
HE'S COMING IN FAST! ESTIMATE SPLASHDOWN IN FIVE MINUTES...

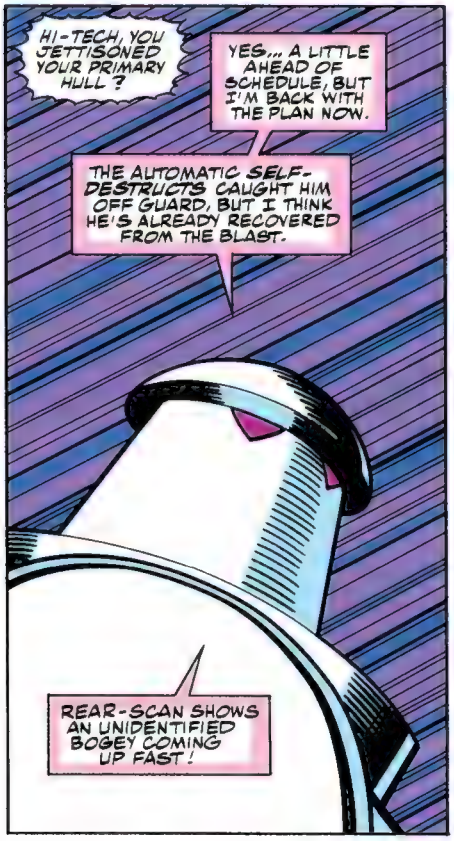
"...FOUR...
"...THREE...
"...TWO...
"...ONE...
"...OUCH! I BET THAT HURT!
"WELL... WHERE IS HE?
"LONG RANGE TELEMETRY INDICATED HE WAS CAUGHT BY THE EDGE OF THE SHOCKWAVE. THE EXPLOSION SHOULDN'T'VE KILLED HIM...
"... AND SURELY THE FALL WOULDN'T--! I HOPE NOT... I DON'T WANT THAT--"
;HUUUAUGH!;
;HUPH;
"AH, THERE HE IS! MUST'VE JUST HAD THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF HIM!
"I HATE TO KICK HIM WHEN HE'S DOWN, BUT IT'S THE ONLY WAY!"
ARRGGHH!
"THAT GOT HIS ATTENTION, ALL RIGHT! I'M MOVING IN FOR A CLOSER LOOK!"

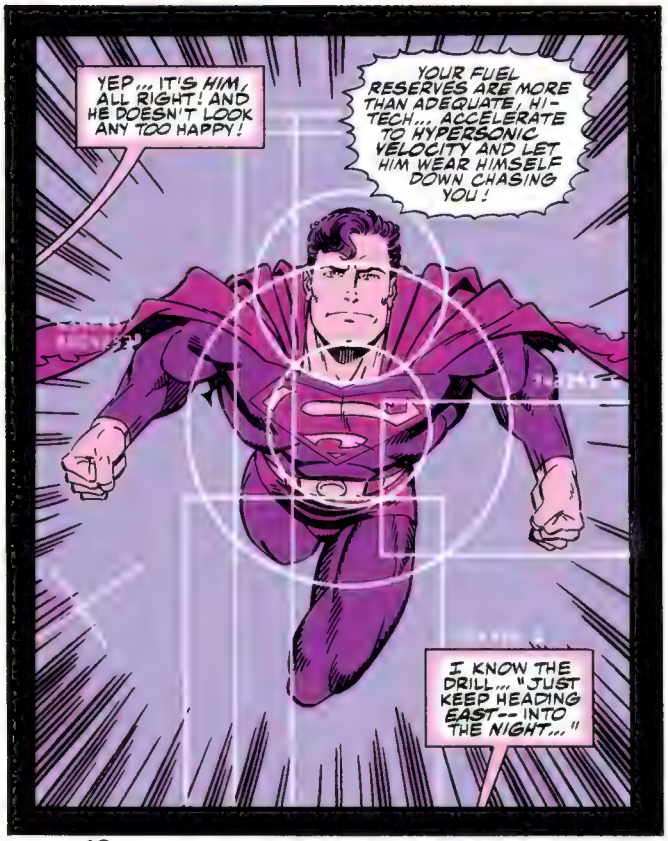
THE ELECTRON BLASTER WORKED LIKE A CHARM... HE REALLY LOOKS OUT OF IT! THIS COULD BE OVER SOONER THAN I'D PLANNED!
WHAT? SOME... BIG ROBOT?
CAN YOU HEAR ME, SUPERMAN? I CHALLENGE YOU TO--!
SUPERMAN?
HE'S GOING UNDER AGAIN... MAYBE I DID MORE DAMAGE THAN I THOUGHT!
DARN... VISUAL SCANNERS CAN PENETRATE ONLY SO FAR... I'LL HAVE TO SUBMERGE AND GO AFTER HIM!
NEGATIVE! THAT'S JUST WHAT HE WANTS YOU TO DO!
YOU THINK SO? HE LOOKED PRETTY DAZED!
LOOKS MAY BE DECEIVING! FOLLOW THE PLAN! FALL BACK... GAIN ALTITUDE AND OBSERVE!
OKAY, BUT --WHOA!
FOOSH!
ALL RIGHT, WHAT'S THIS NONSENSE ABOUT A CHALLENGE? WHO'S RUNNING THIS FLYING BOILER? I WANT SOME ANSWERS!
THE "BOILER" HAS A NAME, SUPERGUY--

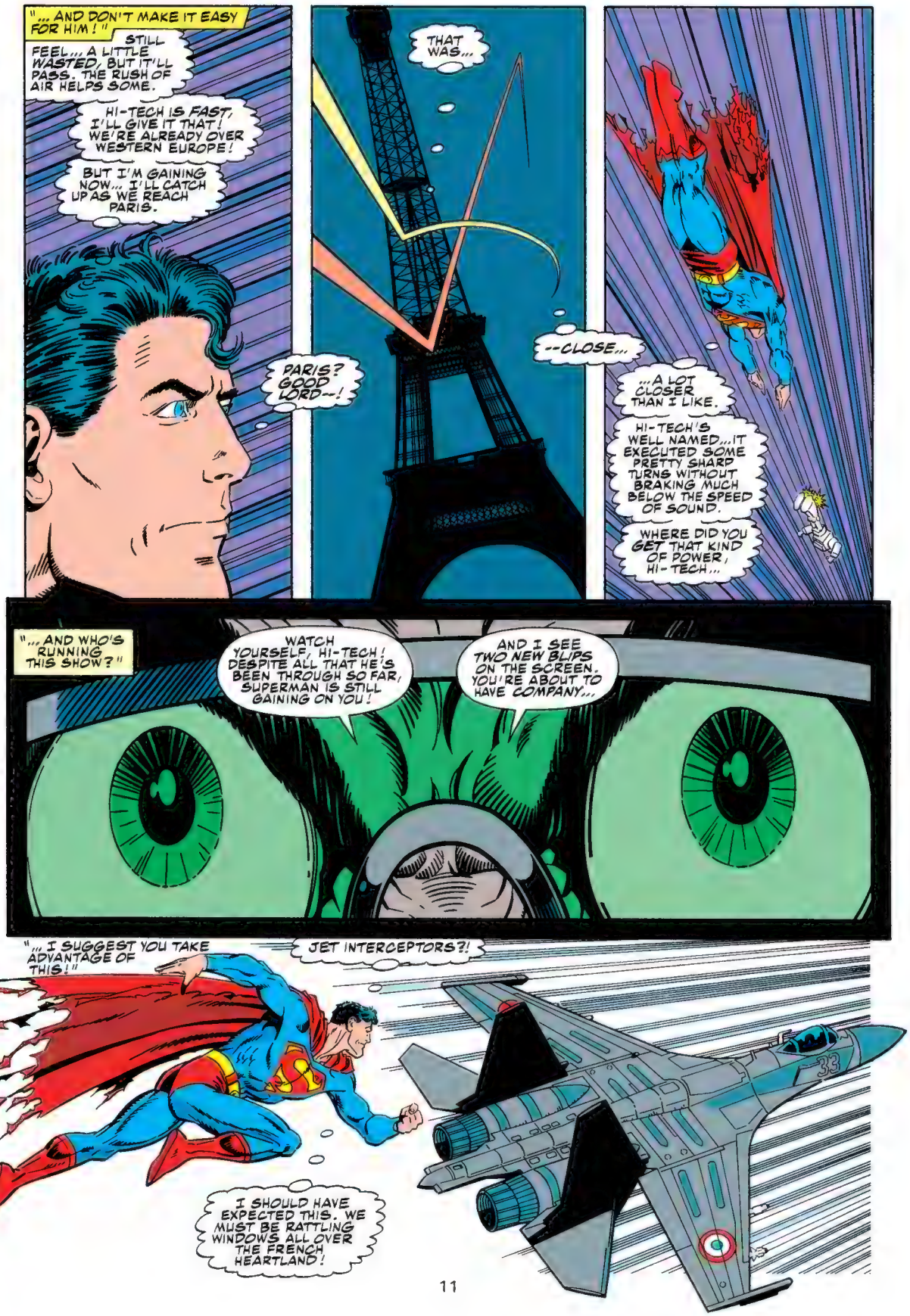
--YOU CAN CALL ME "HI-TECH!"
KRACK
WHAT THE--? IT'S OUTER SHELL SPLIT AWAY--THERE'S A SMALLER ONE UNDER-NEATH ?!

JUST FULL OF SURPRISES, AREN'T I ?
KABOOM
WHUUNGH!

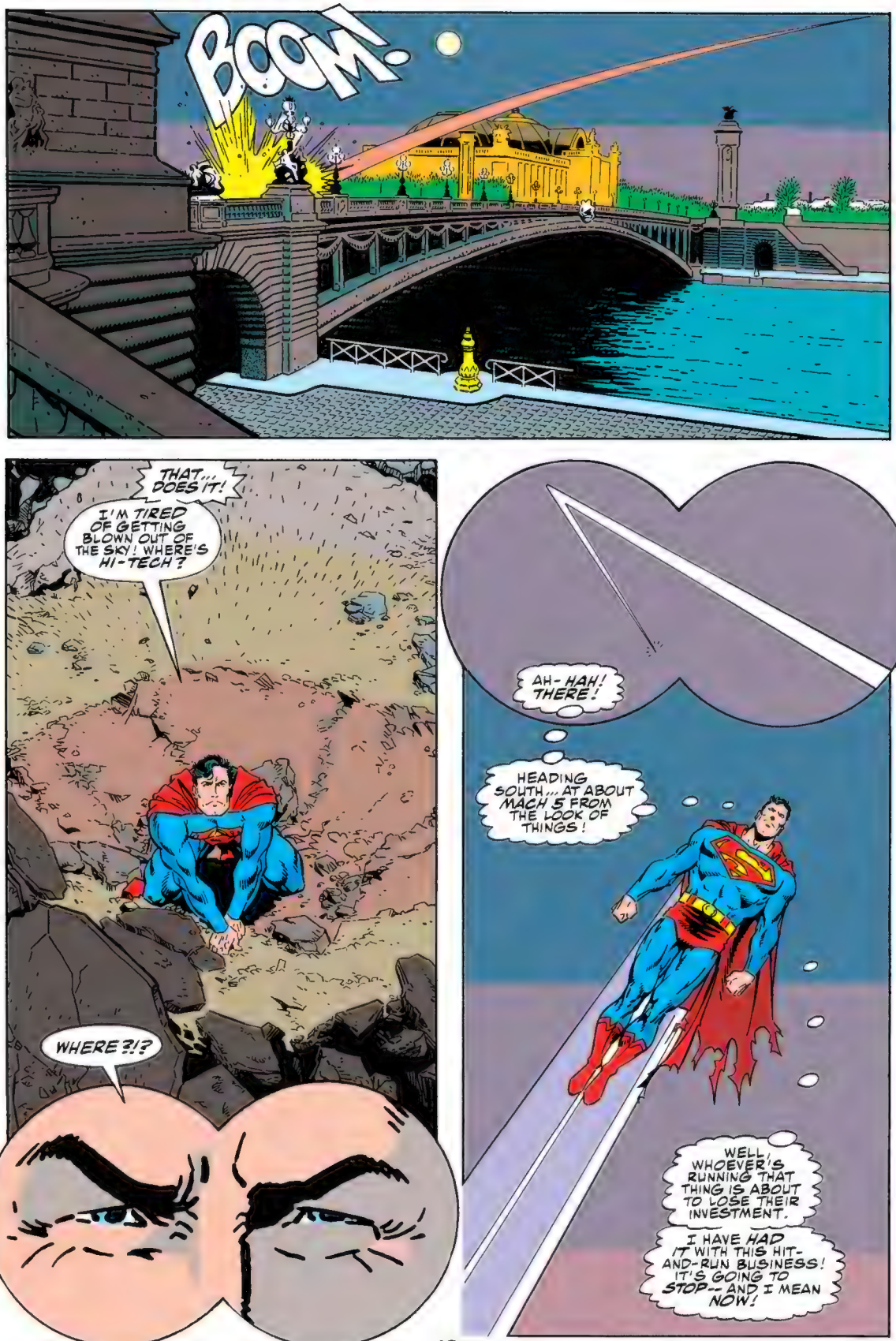

SHELL BLEW TO SMITHEREENS... MUST HAVE BEEN LOADED WITH SHAPED CHARGES.
I MUST BE OUT OF IT, TO FALL FOR AN OLD GAG LIKE THAT!
I SEE THAT MR. HI-TECH IS HIGH-TAILING IT! SORRY, FELLA, BUT YOU WON'T GET AWAY THAT EASILY!

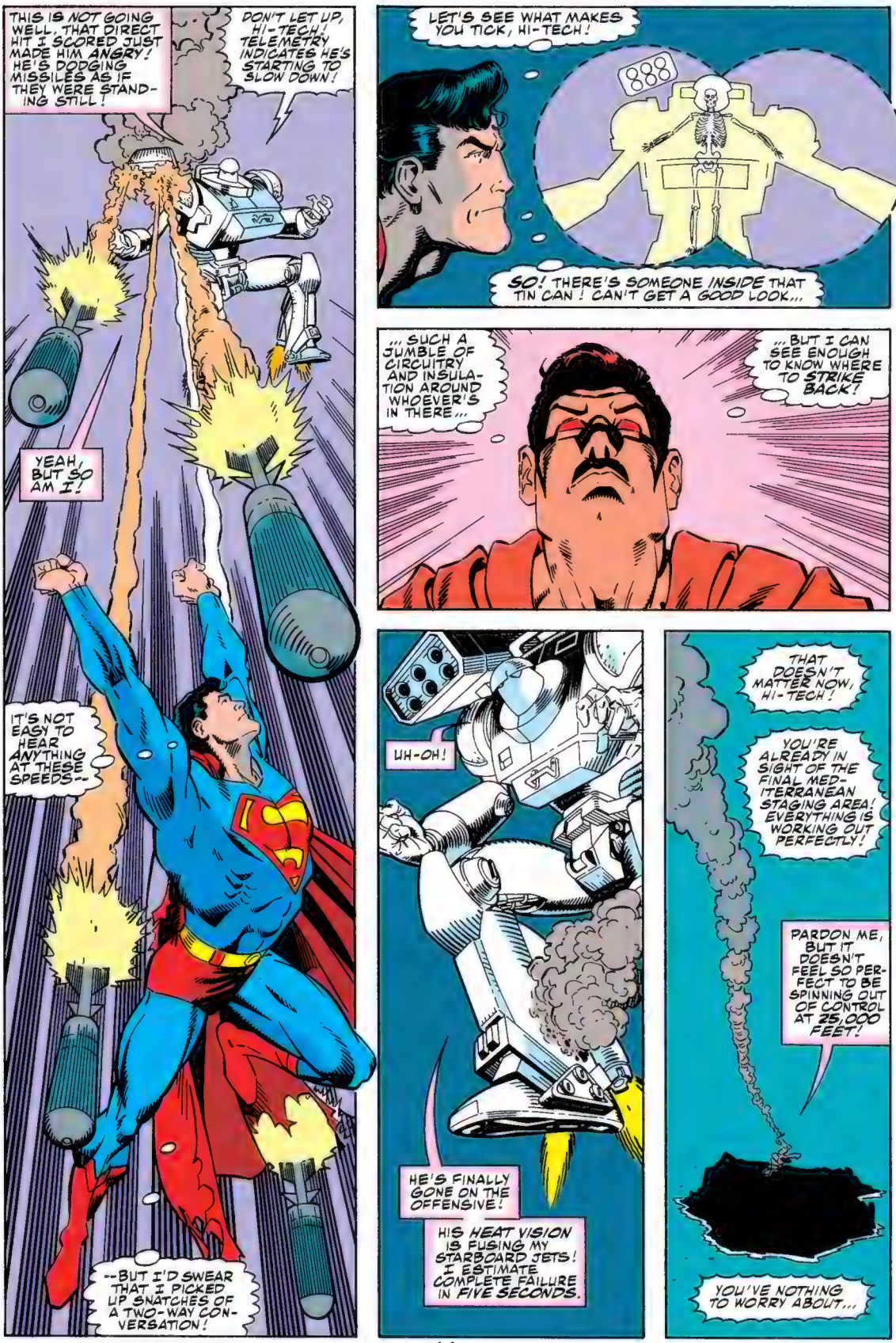

HI-TECH, YOU JETTISONED YOUR PRIMARY HULL ?
YES... A LITTLE AHEAD OF SCHEDULE, BUT I'M BACK WITH THE PLAN NOW.
THE AUTOMATIC SELF-DESTRUCTS CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD, BUT I THINK HE'S ALREADY RECOVERED FROM THE BLAST.
REAR-SCAN SHOWS AN UNIDENTIFIED BOGEY COMING UP FAST!

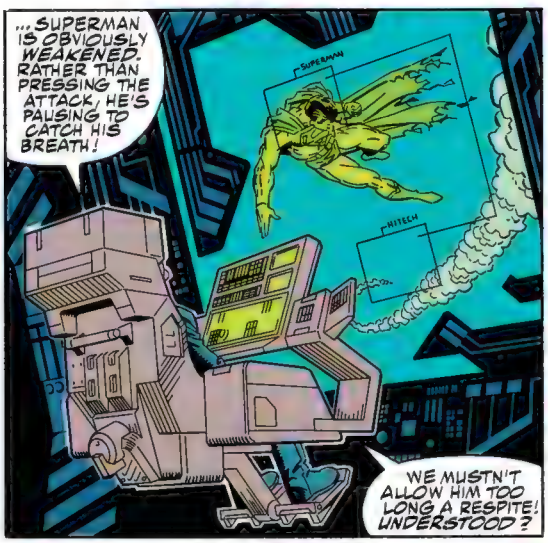

YEP... IT'S HIM, ALL RIGHT! AND HE DOESN'T LOOK ANY TOO HAPPY!
YOUR FUEL RESERVES ARE MORE THAN ADEQUATE, HI-TECH... ACCELERATE TO HYPERSONIC VELOCITY AND LET HIM WEAR HIMSELF DOWN CHASING YOU!
I KNOW THE DRILL... "JUST KEEP HEADING EAST-- INTO THE NIGHT..."

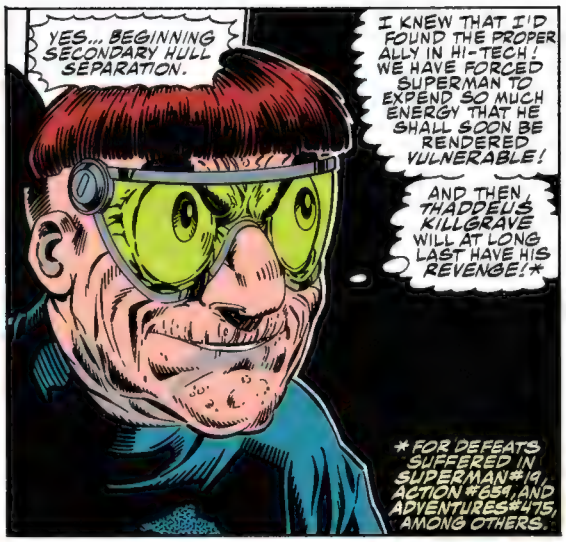

"... AND DON'T MAKE IT EASY FOR HIM!"
STILL FEEL... A LITTLE WASTED, BUT IT'LL PASS. THE RUSH OF AIR HELPS SOME.
HI-TECH IS FAST, I'LL GIVE IT THAT! WE'RE ALREADY OVER WESTERN EUROPE!
BUT I'M GAINING NOW... I'LL CATCH UP AS WE REACH PARIS.
PARIS? GOOD LORD--!
THAT WAS...
--CLOSE...
...A LOT CLOSER THAN I LIKE.
HI-TECH'S WELL NAMED... IT EXECUTED SOME PRETTY SHARP TURNS WITHOUT BRAKING MUCH BELOW THE SPEED OF SOUND.
WHERE DID YOU GET THAT KIND OF POWER, HI-TECH...
"... AND WHO'S RUNNING THIS SHOW?"
WATCH YOURSELF, HI-TECH! DESPITE ALL THAT HE'S BEEN THROUGH SO FAR, SUPERMAN IS STILL GAINING ON YOU!
AND I SEE TWO NEW BLIPS ON THE SCREEN. YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE COMPANY...
"... I SUGGEST YOU TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS!"
JET INTERCEPTORS?!
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THIS. WE MUST BE RATTLING WINDOWS ALL OVER THE FRENCH HEARTLAND!

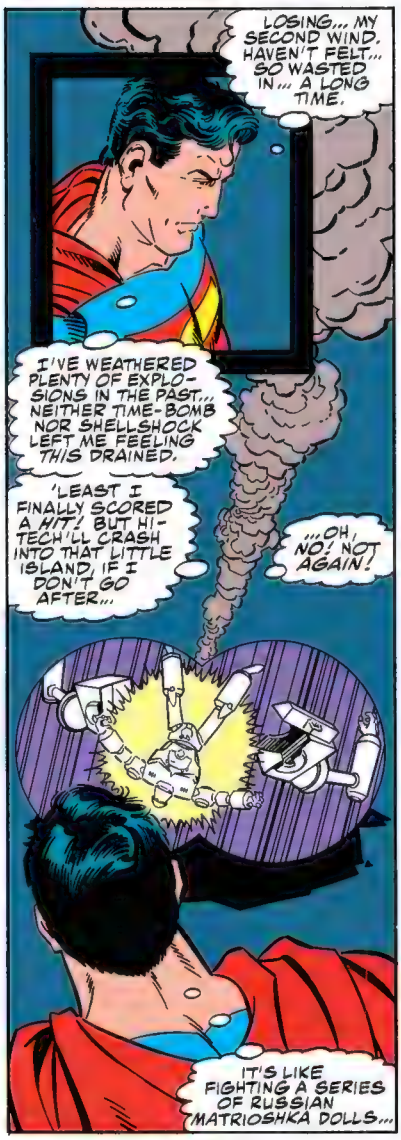
〈NO VISUAL SIGHTINGS AS YET, BUT-- WHAT IS THIS?!〉
〈JEAN-CLAUDE, DROPPING DOWN BETWEEN US, IT-- IT IS SUPERMAN!〉
〈BUT SURELY HE CANNOT BE THE U.F.O. WE WERE SENT TO FIND!〉
〈NO... NO, I AM GETTING ANOTHER READING AT 12 O'CLOCK. PERHAPS HE WISHES TO JOIN IN OUR HUNT, EH?〉
〈I DO NOT THINK SO. THE WAY HE IS GESTURING... HE SEEMS TO BE WAVING US OFF! WHY--〉
SACRE BLEU!
LEFÈVRE
〈ANDRE, BEWARE! DEAD AHEAD--!〉
MON DIEU...
BUQUET
〈...HUNTER MISSILES!〉
NO! I TRIED TO WARN THEM!
BUHROOM
BOOM
BTOOM
THANK GOD...
...BOTH PILOTS EJECTED SAFELY! AND THE WRECKAGE IS FALLING HARMLESSLY INTO THE RIVER SEINE.
GOT TO STOP HI-TECH BEFORE IT CAN LAUNCH ANY MORE...
SEEEEE
...EH?
KTOOM


BOOM!
THAT... DOES IT!
I'M TIRED OF GETTING BLOWN OUT OF THE SKY! WHERE'S HI-TECH?
WHERE?!?
AH-HAH! THERE!
HEADING SOUTH... AT ABOUT MACH 5 FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS!
WELL WHOEVER'S RUNNING THAT THING IS ABOUT TO LOSE THEIR INVESTMENT.
I HAVE HAD IT WITH THIS HIT-AND-RUN BUSINESS! IT'S GOING TO STOP--AND I MEAN NOW!

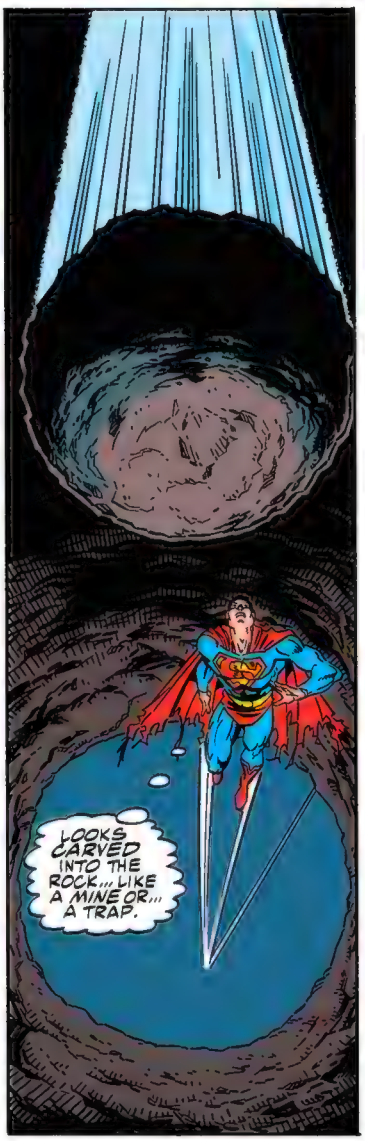

THIS IS NOT GOING WELL. THAT DIRECT HIT I SCORED JUST MADE HIM ANGRY! HE'S DODGING MISSILES AS IF THEY WERE STANDING STILL!
DON'T LET UP, HI-TECH! TELEMETRY INDICATES HE'S STARTING TO SLOW DOWN!
YEAH, BUT SO AM I!
IT'S NOT EASY TO HEAR ANYTHING AT THESE SPEEDS--
--BUT I'D SWEAR THAT I PICKED UP SNATCHES OF A TWO-WAY CONVERSATION!
LET'S SEE WHAT MAKES YOU TICK, HI-TECH!
888
SO! THERE'S SOMEONE INSIDE THAT TIN CAN! CAN'T GET A GOOD LOOK...
...SUCH A JUMBLE OF CIRCUITRY AND INSULATION AROUND WHOEVER'S IN THERE...
...BUT I CAN SEE ENOUGH TO KNOW WHERE TO STRIKE BACK!
UH-OH!
HE'S FINALLY GONE ON THE OFFENSIVE!
HIS HEAT VISION IS FUSING MY STARBOARD JETS! I ESTIMATE COMPLETE FAILURE IN FIVE SECONDS.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW, HI-TECH!
YOU'RE ALREADY IN SIGHT OF THE FINAL MEDITERRANEAN STAGING AREA! EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT PERFECTLY!
PARDON ME, BUT IT DOESN'T FEEL SO PERFECT TO BE SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL AT 25,000 FEET!
YOU'VE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...

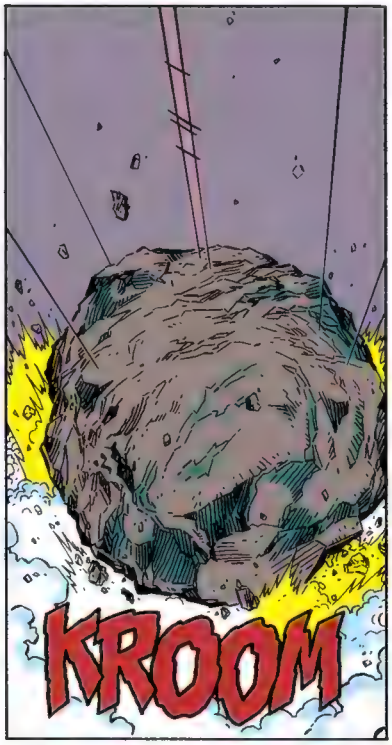

...SUPERMAN IS OBVIOUSLY WEAKENED. RATHER THAN PRESSING THE ATTACK, HE'S PAUSING TO CATCH HIS BREATH!
SUPERMAN
HITECH
WE MUSTN'T ALLOW HIM TOO LONG A RESPITE! UNDERSTOOD?


YES... BEGINNING SECONDARY HULL SEPARATION.
I KNEW THAT I'D FOUND THE PROPER ALLY IN HI-TECH! WE HAVE FORCED SUPERMAN TO EXPEND SO MUCH ENERGY THAT HE SHALL SOON BE RENDERED VULNERABLE!
AND THEN, THADDEUS KILLGRAVE WILL AT LONG LAST HAVE HIS REVENGE!*
* FOR DEFEATS SUFFERED IN SUPERMAN #19, ACTION #654, AND ADVENTURES #475, AMONG OTHERS.

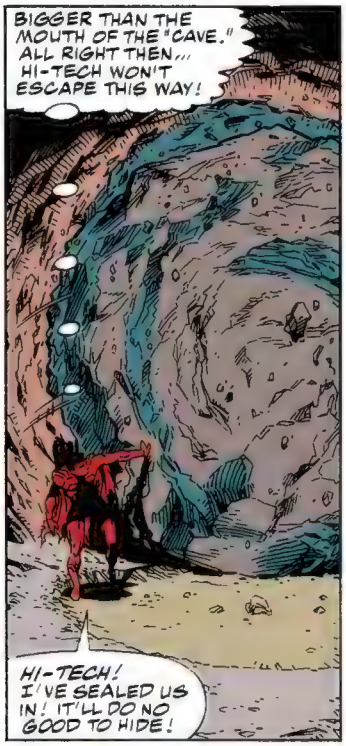

LOSING... MY SECOND WIND. HAVEN'T FELT... SO WASTED IN... A LONG TIME.
I'VE WEATHERED PLENTY OF EXPLOSIONS IN THE PAST... NEITHER TIME-BOMB NOR SHELLSHOCK LEFT ME FEELING THIS DRAINED.
'LEAST I FINALLY SCORED A HIT! BUT HI-TECH'LL CRASH INTO THAT LITTLE ISLAND, IF I DON'T GO AFTER...
...OH, NO! NOT AGAIN!
IT'S LIKE FIGHTING A SERIES OF RUSSIAN MATRIOSHKA DOLLS...

...WITH A SMALLER ARMORED FIGURE INSIDE EACH ONE! AND THIS ONE HAS A BACKUP PROPULSION SYSTEM... WONDERFUL!
NOW WHY IS HI-TECH DIVING INTO THAT CAVE?
NO... IT'S NOT A CAVE...

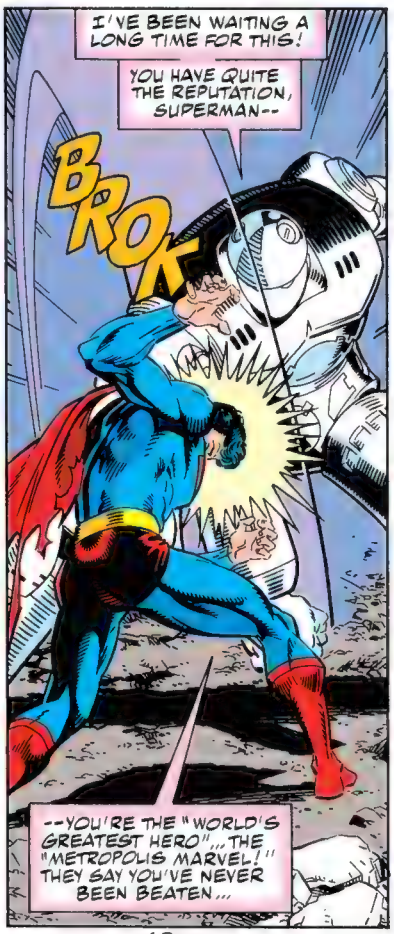

LOOKS CARVED INTO THE ROCK... LIKE A MINE OR... A TRAP.

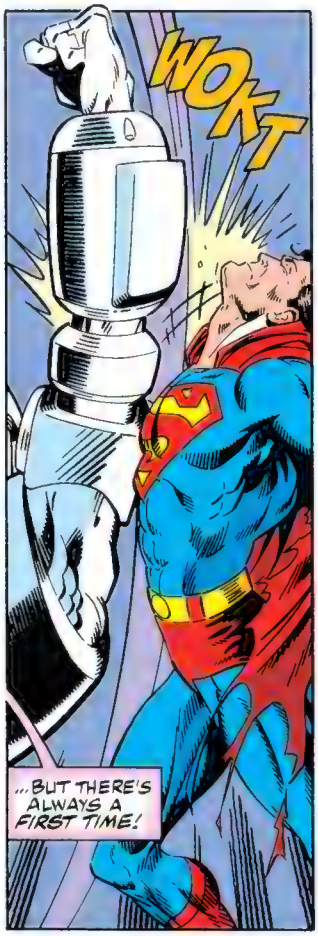

KROOM

WELL... I FLEW... RIGHT INTO... THAT ONE.
GOT TO... GET MY... HEAD TOGETHER. THINK STRAIGHT.
THIS'S ONE... BIG ROCK.

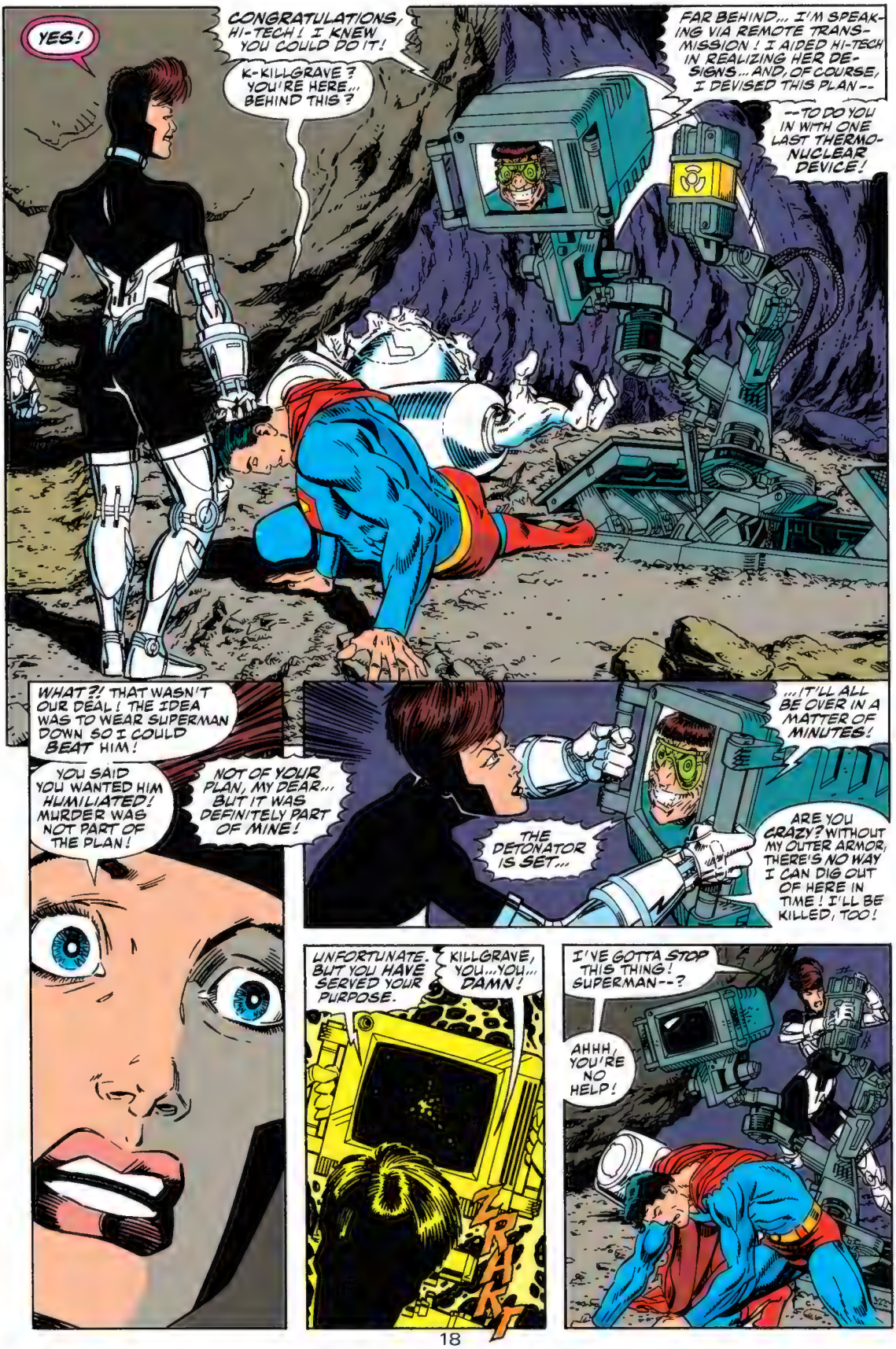

BIGGER THAN THE MOUTH OF THE "CAVE." ALL RIGHT THEN... HI-TECH WON'T ESCAPE THIS WAY!
HI-TECH! I'VE SEALED US IN! IT'LL DO NO GOOD TO HIDE!

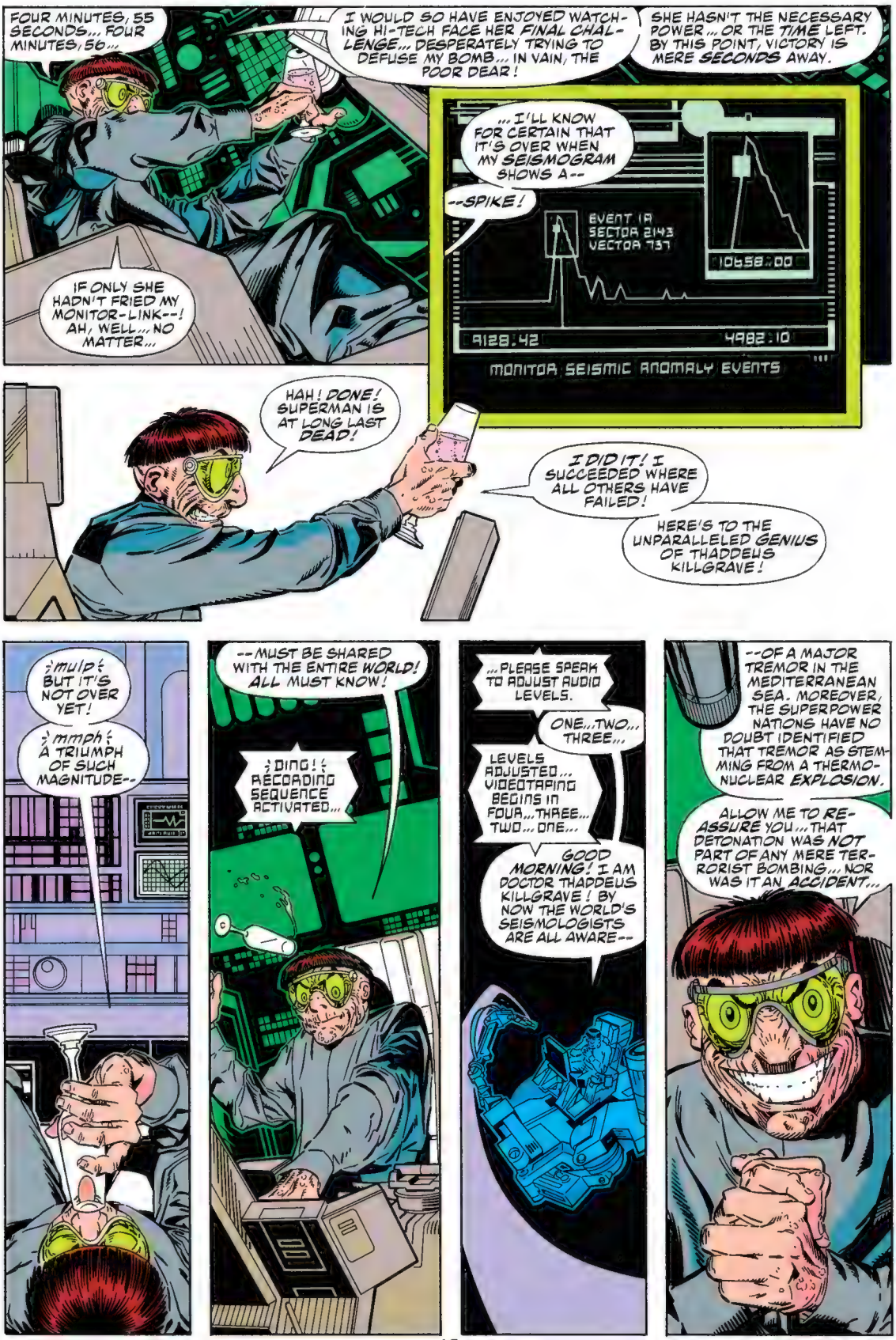
SO WHO'S HIDING?
?


I'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME FOR THIS!
YOU HAVE QUITE THE REPUTATION, SUPERMAN--
BROK
--YOU'RE THE "WORLD'S GREATEST HERO"... THE "METROPOLIS MARVEL!" THEY SAY YOU'VE NEVER BEEN BEATEN...

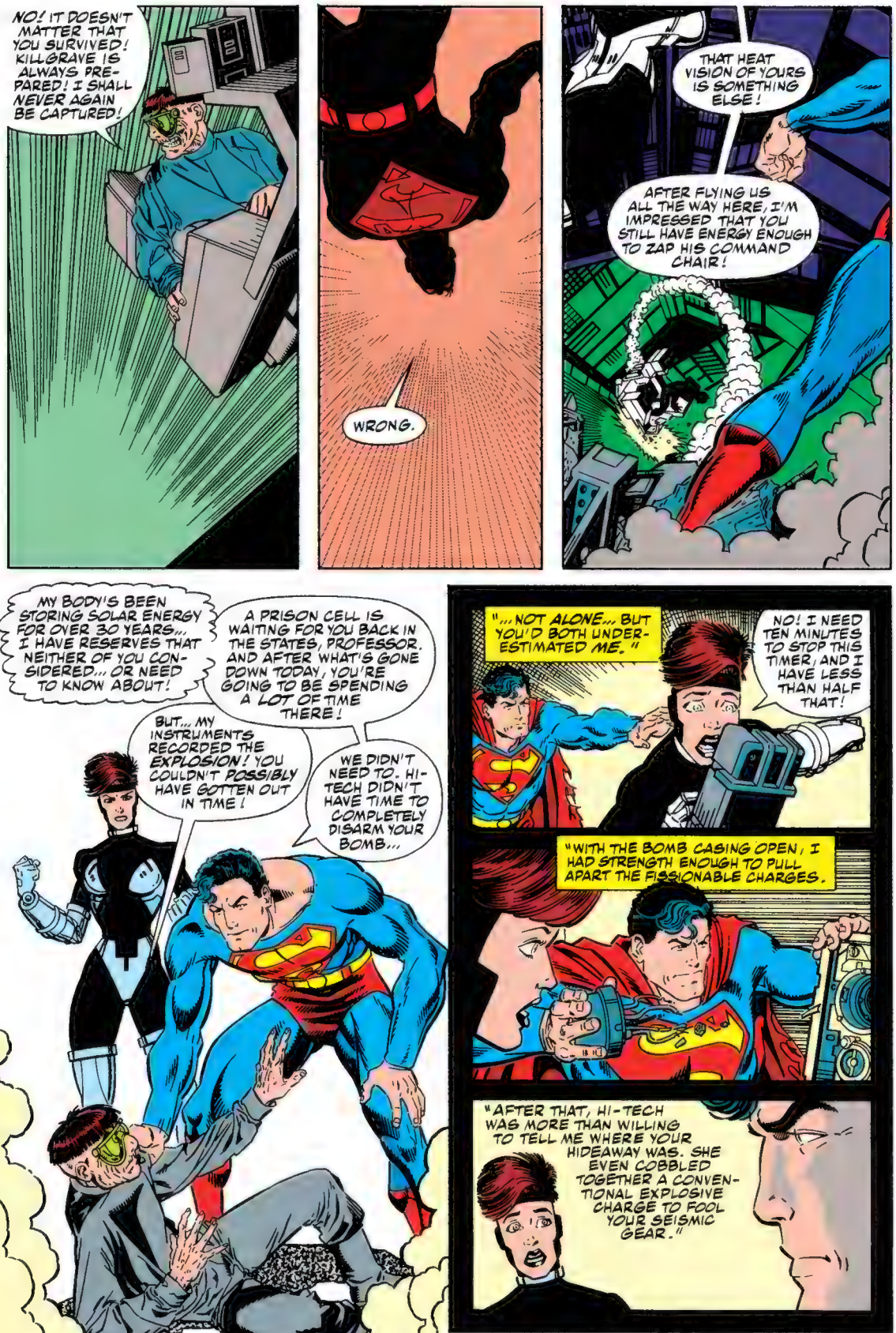

WOKT
...BUT THERE'S ALWAYS A FIRST TIME!

A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE TRIED...BUT I'M THE ONE WHO'S SUCCEEDING!
KRAK
BY THIS TIME TOMORROW THE WORLD WILL KNOW THAT HI-TECH BEAT THE MIGHTY SUPERMAN! MY NAME WILL BE ON EVERYONE'S LIPS!
DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD ...YOU'RE NOT OMNIPOTENT! YOU CAN BE WORN DOWN JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
...BUT I'M NOT BEATEN YET!
KRIK!
KRIK!
H-HEY!
KURRUNKT
HOW WELL... WILL YOU FARE... WITHOUT ALL THAT ARMOR...
...MS. HI-TECH?
YOU...YOU KNEW I WAS A WOMAN?
I SUSPECTED IT... YOUR SKELETAL STRUCTURE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A MAN'S.
IS THAT WHY YOU DIDN'T FIGHT BACK HARDER? YOU WERE GOING EASY ON ME BECAUSE I WAS A WOMAN?! WELL, SUPERMAN, THAT WAS A MISTAKE!
ALL MY LIFE, MEN HAVE UNDERESTIMATED ME--
ZZRAK
--BUT I STILL HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO BRING YOU TO YOUR KNEES!


YES!
CONGRATULATIONS, HI-TECH! I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT!
K-KILLGRAVE? YOU'RE HERE... BEHIND THIS?
FAR BEHIND... I'M SPEAKING VIA REMOTE TRANSMISSION! I AIDED HI-TECH IN REALIZING HER DESIGNS... AND, OF COURSE, I DEVISED THIS PLAN--
--TO DO YOU IN WITH ONE LAST THERMONUCLEAR DEVICE!
WHAT?! THAT WASN'T OUR DEAL! THE IDEA WAS TO WEAR SUPERMAN DOWN SO I COULD BEAT HIM!
YOU SAID YOU WANTED HIM HUMILIATED! MURDER WAS NOT PART OF THE PLAN!
NOT OF YOUR PLAN, MY DEAR... BUT IT WAS DEFINITELY PART OF MINE!
THE DETONATOR IS SET...
...IT'LL ALL BE OVER IN A MATTER OF MINUTES!
ARE YOU CRAZY? WITHOUT MY OUTER ARMOR, THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DIG OUT OF HERE IN TIME! I'LL BE KILLED, TOO!
UNFORTUNATE. BUT YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.
KILLGRAVE, YOU...YOU... DAMN!
KRAK!
I'VE GOTTA STOP THIS THING! SUPERMAN--?
AHHH, YOU'RE NO HELP!


FOUR MINUTES, 55 SECONDS... FOUR MINUTES, 56...
I WOULD SO HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING HI-TECH FACE HER FINAL CHALLENGE... DESPERATELY TRYING TO DEFUSE MY BOMB... IN VAIN, THE POOR DEAR!
SHE HASN'T THE NECESSARY POWER... OR THE TIME LEFT. BY THIS POINT, VICTORY IS MERE SECONDS AWAY.
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T FRIED MY MONITOR-LINK--! AH, WELL... NO MATTER...
...I'LL KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT IT'S OVER WHEN MY SEISMOGRAM SHOWS A--
--SPIKE!
EVENT 1A
SECTOR 2143
VECTOR 737
10658:00
9128.42
4982:10
MONITOR SEISMIC ANOMALY EVENTS
HAH! DONE! SUPERMAN IS AT LONG LAST DEAD!
I DID IT! I SUCCEEDED WHERE ALL OTHERS HAVE FAILED!
HERE'S TO THE UNPARALLELED GENIUS OF THADDEUS KILLGRAVE!
;mulp; BUT IT'S NOT OVER YET!
;mmph; A TRIUMPH OF SUCH MAGNITUDE--
--MUST BE SHARED WITH THE ENTIRE WORLD! ALL MUST KNOW!
;DING!; RECOADING SEQUENCE ACTIVATED...
...PLEASE SPEAK TO ADJUST AUDIO LEVELS.
ONE...TWO... THREE...
LEVELS ADJUSTED... VIDEOTAPING BEGINS IN FOUR... THREE... TWO... ONE...
GOOD MORNING! I AM DOCTOR THADDEUS KILLGRAVE! BY NOW THE WORLD'S SEISMOLOGISTS ARE ALL AWARE--
--OF A MAJOR TREMOR IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA. MOREOVER, THE SUPERPOWER NATIONS HAVE NO DOUBT IDENTIFIED THAT TREMOR AS STEMMING FROM A THERMONUCLEAR EXPLOSION.
ALLOW ME TO REASSURE YOU... THAT DETONATION WAS NOT PART OF ANY MERE TERRORIST BOMBING... NOR WAS IT AN ACCIDENT...

...NO, I AM PROUD TO CLAIM PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THAT EXPLOSION, AS WELL AS FOR THE SUBSEQUENT DEATH IT CAUSED...
...THE DEATH OF THE SO-CALLED CHAMPION KNOWN AS SUPERMAN!
CRASH
WHAT--?
YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE PREMATURE, KILLGRAVE!
NO... NO, IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
YOU CAN'T STILL BE ALIVE!
OH, YES, WE CAN!
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURS, YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING @#$%!!


NO! IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT YOU SURVIVED! KILLGRAVE IS ALWAYS PREPARED! I SHALL NEVER AGAIN BE CAPTURED!
WRONG.
THAT HEAT VISION OF YOURS IS SOMETHING ELSE!
AFTER FLYING US ALL THE WAY HERE, I'M IMPRESSED THAT YOU STILL HAVE ENERGY ENOUGH TO ZAP HIS COMMAND CHAIR!
MY BODY'S BEEN STORING SOLAR ENERGY FOR OVER 30 YEARS... I HAVE RESERVES THAT NEITHER OF YOU CONSIDERED... OR NEED TO KNOW ABOUT!
A PRISON CELL IS WAITING FOR YOU BACK IN THE STATES, PROFESSOR. AND AFTER WHAT'S GONE DOWN TODAY, YOU'RE GOING TO BE SPENDING A LOT OF TIME THERE!
BUT... MY INSTRUMENTS RECORDED THE EXPLOSION! YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE GOTTEN OUT IN TIME!
WE DIDN'T NEED TO. HI-TECH DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO COMPLETELY DISARM YOUR BOMB...
"... NOT ALONE... BUT YOU'D BOTH UNDERESTIMATED ME."
NO! I NEED TEN MINUTES TO STOP THIS TIMER, AND I HAVE LESS THAN HALF THAT!
"WITH THE BOMB CASING OPEN, I HAD STRENGTH ENOUGH TO PULL APART THE FISSIONABLE CHARGES.
"AFTER THAT, HI-TECH WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO TELL ME WHERE YOUR HIDEAWAY WAS. SHE EVEN COBBLED TOGETHER A CONVENTIONAL EXPLOSIVE CHARGE TO FOOL YOUR SEISMIC GEAR."

THAT'S RIGHT! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GO RUNNING OFF BEFORE WE HAD A CHANCE TO GET HERE, YOU LITTLE LOUSE!
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, HI-TECH. I'LL BE SURE THAT THE PROPER AUTHORITIES KNOW OF YOUR ASSISTANCE...
...BUT I WILL HAVE TO TAKE YOU IN, AS WELL!
OH... I DON'T THINK SO, SUPERMAN!
DON'T MAKE THIS HARD, HI-TECH. YOU WERE PARTY TO THE DESTRUCTION OF A U.S. SATELLITE AND TWO FRENCH JETS, NOT TO MENTION...HUH?
YOU CAN LOOK, BUT YOU CAN'T TOUCH!
SORRY, BUT WHILE YOU WERE SMASHING IN HERE, THE REAL ME BEAT A QUICK RETREAT--AND MADE OFF IN AN ESCAPE CRAFT THAT KILLGRAVE HAD WAITING!
SO, EVEN IF YOU HADN'T FRIED HIS COMMAND CHAIR, HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR. THIS IS JUST A LI'L OL' HOLOGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION--
--ANOTHER LITTLE SOMETHING I "COBBLED TOGETHER" USING MY GEAR AND HIS! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS UNDERESTIMATED!
BUT DON'T WORRY, BIG GUY, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF ME...
...I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM OUR LITTLE SORTIE, AND I'LL BE BACK FOR A REMATCH! COUNT ON IT!
INCREDIBLE! IT'S TRULY LIKE SOME SPORT TO HER!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU FOUND HER, KILLGRAVE, BUT I HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY MORE LIKE HER AT HOME!
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU! NOTHING!
WHY, THANKS, PROFESSOR! THAT'S THE NICEST PROMISE YOU'VE EVER MADE ME!
End

HEY, SUPERWUSS!
COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!
STORY AND PICTURES
Dan Jurgens
FINISHES
Rick Burchett
Actions Admissions & Acquisitions
Letters & Colors
Willie Schubert
Gene D'Angelo
EDITOR
Brian Augustyn
Ruben Diaz
ASSISTANT

HAW! THIS'LL BRING THE BIG, BLUE BOY SCOUT OUTTA THE WOOD-WORK.

SINCE HE'S TOO STUCK UP TO WEAR A JLA SIGNAL DEVICE SO WE CAN CALL HIM--

--I'LL JUST EMBARRASS HIM INTA THE OPEN!

I DON'T THINK SUPERMAN WILL APPRECIATE THIS APPROACH, GUY!

AND WITH BLUE BEETLE, BOOSTER GOLD, FIRE AND BLOODWYND MISSING WE'LL ALL HAVE TO COOPERATE!

NAG!! LOOK, MISTER GARDNER! I'M ONLY TRYING TO KEEP SUPERMAN FROM GETTING ANGRY!

CEASE YOUR BICKERING. THERE IS A MORE EXPEDIENT WAY OF FINDING THE KRYPTONIAN.

--UNTIL I FIND HIM.

DONE.

HE IS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY BELOW.

THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO? THAT'S SIX SQUARE BLOCKS!

NO BIG DEAL. IF THIS BIG, HANDSOME-LOOKIN' DUDE DOESN'T FLUSH HIM OUT, NOTHIN' WILL!

HEY, MAXIMA, CAN YOU SOLIDIFY YOUR PSI-BEAM TO MUFFLE THAT NAG'S CHATTER?

I DON'T CARE IF HE GETS FLAMIN' PEEVED BEYOND BELIEF!

WE DON'T NEED THE BUM! IF HE THINKS HE'S TOO GOOD TO WEAR A SIGNAL DEVICE--

--THE HELL WITH HIM!

HAVING PROBED HIS MIND IN THE PAST, I CAN TELEPATHICALLY SCOUR THE CITY FOR HIS UNIQUE EMANATIONS--

AILY

YO, BLUE! GET YOUR BUTT OUT HERE! WE GOT WORK TO DO--

--PROVIDIN' YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK!

GARDNER.

DAILY PLANET

THE MAN HAS ALL THE CLASS--

--OF A CORN DOG.

DA

I'M HERE, GARDNER.

PUT YOUR LOUDMOUTHED MESSENGER AND HIS ATTITUDE BACK IN YOUR RING!

AND IF YOU VALUE THAT RING--

--DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS AGAIN.

LOOK, HERO, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO THIS JUNK IF YOU'D BE MAN ENOUGH TO PACK A SIGNAL GIZMO.

START TOMORROW, 'CUZ I'M NEVER COMIN' TO RING YOUR DOOR-BELL AGAIN!

GUY IS RIGHT, SUPERMAN.

I AM?

WHEN WE HAVE AN EMERGENCY SUCH AS NOW WE SHOULD *NOT* HAVE TO WASTE TIME SEARCHING FOR YOU!

YOU ARE RIGHT.

I APOLOGIZE. I'LL HAVE BEETLE INSTALL ONE AT OUR NEXT MEETING.

IF HE'S STILL ALIVE I'M CERTAIN HE'LL BE WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE YOU, KRYPTONIAN.

ALIVE?! WHAT'S GOING ON?

THE REST OF THE CREW DISAPPEARED HANDLING A CASE AT EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE.

THEY PROBABLY JUST GOT DETOURED AT A K-MART BLUE LIGHT SPECIAL--

--BUT WE'VE GOTTA GO LOOKIN' FOR 'EM ANYWAY!

THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY, MAX. THEY SHOULD BE AT EDWARDS WITHIN THE HOUR.

ABOUT TIME, OBERON--

--CONSIDERING HOW LONG IT TOOK FINDING SUPERMAN.

I SHOULD HAVE USED MY *PERSUASION* POWER ON HIM TO FORCE HIM TO WEAR A SIGNAL DEVICE MONTHS AGO.

OH, *SURRE* YOU SHOULD HAVE, AND ONCE HE DISCOVERED WHAT YOU DID--

--EVEN GUY COULDN'T RING UP ENOUGH BANDAGES TO PUT YOU BACK TOGETHER.

TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT NOW. ANY WORD FROM EDWARDS?

NEGATIVE, MAX. NOT ONLY HAS OUR TEAM DISAPPEARED BUT ALL THE BASE PERSONNEL HAS TOO.

SOMETHING NASTY HAS DEF-INITELY GONE DOWN!

AT LEAST THE U.S.A.F. HAS AGREED TO LET US HANDLE IT.

LET'S JUST HOPE--

"--IT'S SOMETHING WE CAN HANDLE!"

DONUTS HALF EATEN, CUPS OF COFFEE HALF FULL, EQUIPMENT LEFT ON...

THESE GUYS BUGGED OUT IN A HURRY!

OR WERE *TAKEN* OUT IN A HURRY. X-RAY VISION REVEALS THIS PLACE IS *DESERTED!*

WHAT, OR WHO, COULD HAVE CAUSED THIS?

WHAT, NO JELLY-FILLED?

WAIT. THIS DOESN'T BELONG.

A FOREIGN SUBSTANCE--LIKE *NOTHING* I'VE SEEN ON ANY PLANET.

SOMETHING VERY... *DIFFERENT* LEFT THIS HERE.

DO YOU SUPPOSE ANY OF THESE COMPUTERS COULD TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?

MAYBE, BUT NONE OF US KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THEM! IF BLOODWYND OR BETTLE WERE HERE--

WHICH THEY MOST DEFINITELY *AIN'T*, BLUE. YOU WANNA FIND THESE MISSIN' FOLKS--

--WE BETTER START TURNIN' OVER ROCKS PRONTO!

GARDNER'S RIGHT. WE'VE ALREADY WASTED TOO MUCH TIME!

IF WE FAN OUT IT SHOULDN'T TAKE US LONG TO SEARCH THE AREA!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, SPACE BABE! LET'S GO!

I'LL SLOPE OUT THE SOUTHWEST AND IF THERE'S SOME MAN-EATIN' CREEP OUT THERE--

--I *WANT* HIM!

I'LL COVER THE NORTH!

I'LL TAKE THE REST AND WE'LL HAVE THE ENTIRE BASE *TRISECTED.*

IF YOU FIND ANYTHING BE SURE TO SIGNAL THE REST!

WHAT ABOUT *ME?*

I NEED YOU TO STAY HERE AS LOOKOUT. IF WE DON'T COME BACK--

--IT'LL BE UP TO YOU TO CALL IN *JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE!*

WHATEVER YOU SAY, SUPERMAN.

GOOD LUCK.

"WHATEVER YOU SAY, SUPERMAN."

JEEZ, TORA! DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT LIKE SOME LOVESTRUCK TEENAGE GIRL?

SUPERMAN IS SO *NOBLE*... SO *REGAL* THAT I JUST CAN'T HELP MYSELF!

SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... MAKES ME BEHAVE LIKE SUCH A... DOPE!

BUT EVEN AFTER THESE PAST FEW MONTHS--

--HE HASN'T TAKEN ANY INTEREST IN *ME* DESPITE MY FEELINGS FOR HIM!

WHY IS GUY THE ONLY MAN I CAN INTEREST?

I REALLY *WANTED* TO CARE FOR HIM, BUT ALL HE DID WAS TREAT ME LIKE *DIRT*.

I KNOW THAT, DEEP DOWN, HE'S NOT AS BAD AS HE SEEMS BUT--

A SIGNAL!

MAXIMA'S FOUND *SOME-THING!*

HOLD ON, BABE! LOOKS LIKE SPACE CHICK HAS SCORED A FIND!

WOO!

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED. CONSIDERING WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR--

--WE'D BETTER BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

WHAT DIDJA *THINK* I WAS PREPARING FOR? A ROGUE GIRL SCOUT TROOP?

OVER THERE! I SEE IT... BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

HOW COULD IT BE SO *BIG?* I NEED MY TELESCOPIC VISION JUST TO SEE THE END OF IT!

YEAH, THIS *WASN'T* BUILT IN DETROIT!

THEN WE'RE DEALING WITH AN *EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL!?*

EITHER THAT OR A *STAR TREK* SET GONE *BERSERK!*

INTERESTING. THE HULL MUST CONSIST OF A SPECIAL BLEND OF UNEARTHLY METALS--

--THAT *PREVENT* ME FROM SEEING INSIDE WITH MY X-RAY VISION!

WE DON'T NEED YOUR SUPER PEEPERS TO PROBE THE *OBVIOUS*, BLUE!

THAT EMPTY BUG TELLS ME BEETLE AND COMPANY ARE *DEFINITELY* INSIDE!

WEIRD! I'VE NEVER SEEN *ANYTHING* LIKE IT!

IT'S HALF *PLANT*, HALF *MACHINE*...GROWN TOGETHER SOMEHOW!

LET'S GET A LITTLE LIGHT SO WE CAN SEE WHAT THE HELL WE'RE LOOKIN' AT!

THIS *SLIME* IS EXACTLY LIKE THE STUFF WE SAW BACK AT THE BASE!

IF WE HAD ANY *DOUBT* ABOUT A CONNECTION, IT'S GONE NOW.

DID SOMEONE *KIDNAP* THE BASE PERSONNEL?

MAYBE *WORSE!*

YO! CHECK *THIS* ACTION OUT!

INCREDIBLE! OUR MISSING TEAM-MATES, THE SHUTTLE ASTRONAUTS, THE BASE STAFF--

--THEY'RE ALL *HERE!* HOW... *AWFUL!*

IT'S LIKE THOSE PODS ARE SUCKIN' THE LIFE RIGHT *OUT OF THEM!*

YOU'RE RIGHT! MY SUPER-HEARING TELLS ME THEIR *PULSE* AND *HEARTBEATS* ARE DRASTICALLY *LOW!*

THEN WE GOTTA GET 'EM *OUTTA* THESE LIFE-SUCKING SACS!

NOT SO FAST, GUY! RIPPING THESE SACS OPEN MIGHT ACTUALLY CAUSE MORE HARM THAN GOOD!

HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT MAXIMA *ISN'T* UP THERE? I WONDER--

FORGET IT, SUPES! I'M RIPPING THEM OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

AIEEE! AIEEE!

OOPS!

YOU MUST BE RIGHT, BLUE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE THESE FLUIDS ARE *KEEPING THEM ALIVE!*

IF YOU'D JUST *LISTEN* FOR ONCE, WE--

WHAT'S THAT?

A CHUNK OF SLUDGE FLYIN' RIGHT THROUGH THE WALL!

PLOOP

IT'S MAXIMA! AND SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN RUN OVER BY A TRUCK!

WHAT COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO SOMEONE AS POWERFUL AS HER?

WHATEVER THESE ALIENS ARE, THEY MUST BE TOUGH!

AND IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE OUT TO PROVE HOW TOUGH, TOO!

WEAPONS!

YOU THINK THESE SUCKERS WERE HAIR DRYERS?!

I HAVE YOU BOYS COVERED!

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ADD A FEW POUNDS OF ICE--

SNAP

--AND DOWN THEY COME!

KRASH!

THIS VESSEL IS CHAQ'S.

YOU SHALL LEAVE NOW.

NOT UNTIL WE GET OUR BUDDIES BACK, SLIMY!

THEY ARE CHAQ'S!

ALL IS CHAQ'S!

YOU ARE CHAQ'S!

THE ONLY THING OF MINE YOU'RE GONNA HAVE--

--IS MY BOOT IN YOUR FACE!

THIS VESSEL IS CHAQ'S.

THROUGH SYMBIOTIC LINK I COMMAND ITS EVERY FUNCTION AND NUANCE.

DEFENSIVE FUNCTIONS INCLUDED.

FSQ

MMMF!

THIS ORGANIC METAL HAS COME TO LIFE!

NOW THAT CHAQ HAS CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED HIS HOSTILE INTENT--

--WE CAN FIGHT BACK! CARE TO EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE ON EARTH, CHAQ?

MMF! MMMF!

EARTH? YOU CALL THIS WORLD EARTH?

I WOULD CALL IT CHAQ'S. I HAVE LEGAL CLAIM HERE.

UNDERSTAND THAT I PURCHASED THIS ENTIRE SOLAR SYSTEM SEVERAL HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

ONCE MY CREWS HAVE STRIPPED THIS WORLD OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES... AND LIFE--

...IT WILL BECOME A SUITABLE WAY STATION FOR SPACE TRAVELERS.

THAT'S CRAZY! NOBODY CAN ACTUALLY BUY THE EARTH!

YOU ERR.

I HAVE DONE SO.

FIRE.

NO EFFECT.

YOU MAY THINK YOU HAVE A CLAIM HERE BUT YOU DON'T!

NOW TAKE A WALK.

I HAVE PROOF.

DOCUMENTATION.

THIS DEED HAS BEEN NOTARIZED AND RATIFIED BY ALL NECESSARY COUNCILS AND INSTITUTIONS.

NO COURT WILL DISPUTE ITS AUTHENTICITY.

LOOKS LIKE MUMBO-JUMBO TO ME, AND IF I CAN'T *READ* IT I DON'T *HOLD* TO IT.

YOU CAN BARELY READ *ENGLISH.*

THE TEXT IS ANCIENT BUT I RECOGNIZE ITS ROOTS IN *OLD INTERLAC.*

LONG AGO THERE WAS A GOVERNING BODY THAT DIVIDED THE UNIVERSE INTO *STAR LOTS.*

CHAQ BOUGHT ONE OF THOSE LOTS.

HE *TRULY* OWNS EARTH.

INDEED.

LEAVE, TRESPASSERS.

LOOK, I DON'T *CARE* WHAT THAT DOCUMENT SAYS.

YOU CAN'T *OWN* A WORLD AND ITS *PEOPLE!*

THE BOY SCOUT IS RIGHT! I SAY WE TAKE THIS CRATE APART AND SETTLE THE ISSUE ONCE AND FOR ALL!

BUT ISN'T CHAQ RIGHT, IN A WAY, AS WELL?

IMAGINE HOW YOUR OWN NATIVE AMERICANS MUST HAVE FELT WHEN EUROPEANS ARRIVED CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF THEIR LAND!

IT WAS A CONCEPT THAT SEEMED WRONG TO THEM, YET THEIR VIEWS DIDN'T PREVAIL.

IS THIS SO VERY DIFFERENT?

LOOK, BABE, YOU CAN'T BE SIDING WITH E.T. HOWELL III OVER THERE! GET TOUGH!

I AM NOT SIDING WITH HIM! I AM MERELY POINTING OUT THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SITUATION.

YIPPEE. WE'LL ARGUE PHILOSOPHY WHILE THIS GUY BULLDOZES EARTH INTO AN INTERPLANETARY BIG BELLY BURGER JOINT!

NO. THERE'S NO ARGUMENT HERE. WE'RE RIGHT AND WE'LL BACK IT UP--

--NO MATTER HOW MUCH FORCE IT TAKES!

HOLD. WAR IS AN *HONORABLE* WAY OF SETTLING CONFLICT.

BUT THERE ARE GOVERNING COUNCILS OUT THERE YOU HAVE YET TO MEET WHO WILL STAND *BEHIND* CHAQ--

--AND *ENFORCE* HIS RIGHTS WITH MORE *WAR*. I DARE SAY THAT, WITH THEIR *SUPERIOR* FORCES EARTH WILL BE *OVERRUN*.

LORRECT.

ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS HERE ARE CHAQ'S.

TRUE, YET THERE MAY YET BE A *SOLUTION*.

GUY?

WHAT THE--

I AM CONTACTING YOU TELEPATHICALLY. DO NOT LET THE OTHERS KNOW THIS.

I WANT YOU TO *SNEAK* OUT OF HERE AND FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS.

ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN STANDING AROUND DEBATING THE ISSUE!

GOOD. NOW HERE IS WHAT WE HAVE TO DO...

BEFORE WE LEAVE MAXIMA WOULD ASK CHAQ A QUESTION.

YOU AREN'T INTENTIONALLY MALEVOLENT... YOU ONLY WANT TO *PROFIT* HERE?

YES, OF COURSE... THE MORE THE BETTER.

THEN I OFFER YOU 800 TRILLION *SENTEES* FOR YOUR RIGHTS TO EARTH!

YOU... YOU HAVE ALLES TO FUNDS SO GREAT?

YES, IT IS THE WELL-KNOWN *CURRENCY* OF OVER TWO HUNDRED WORLDS!

YES! AND THE COMBINED WEALTH OF AT LEAST HALF THAT NUMBER!

WHAT IS SHE *UP* TO?

I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND...

CHECK YOUR SHIP'S CARGO HOLDS, CHAQ, AND YOU'LL FIND THE SENTEES WAITING AS PROOF. DO WE HAVE A *DEAL*?

IT... IT'S TRUE. NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH WEALTH!

NO KIDDIN'. AND *I'M* THE ONE WHO MADE THE DEPOSIT, PAL!

THAT IS FAR GREATER PROFIT THAN I PLANNED!

EARTH IS YOURS!

BREEP BREEP

ploot

THE DEED. YOU ARE NOW RIGHTFUL OWNER OF SOL, THE NINE PLANETS THAT ORBIT IT AND ALL THEY CONTAIN.

THEN... I ACTUALLY OWN EARTH? AND ALL THE PEOPLE ON IT?!

BWAH HA HA HAHH!

I SHALL RELEASE ALL CAPTIVES INTO YOUR CUSTODY, SIR. DO WITH THEM AS YOU WISH.

WE'VE WON WITH SMARTS SOMETIMES AND BRAWN THE OTHERS.

BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER SLAMMED OUR WAY TO VICTORY!

LATER.

--SO I TELEPATHICALLY GUIDED GUY TO THE SHIP'S HOLD WHERE HE CREATED THE 800 TRILLION SENTEES WITH HIS POWER RING!

THAT WON'T *LAST*, WILL IT?

I MEAN, WON'T THAT MONEY JUST *FADE* AFTER A WHILE?

IT TOOK CHAQ *THOUSANDS* OF YEARS IN A STATE OF *SUSPENDED ANIMATION* TO GET HERE.

BY THE TIME HE GETS HOME AND WAKES UP TO CHECK HIS *HAUL*--

--LIFE HERE WILL PROBABLY BE LONG GONE ANYWAY.

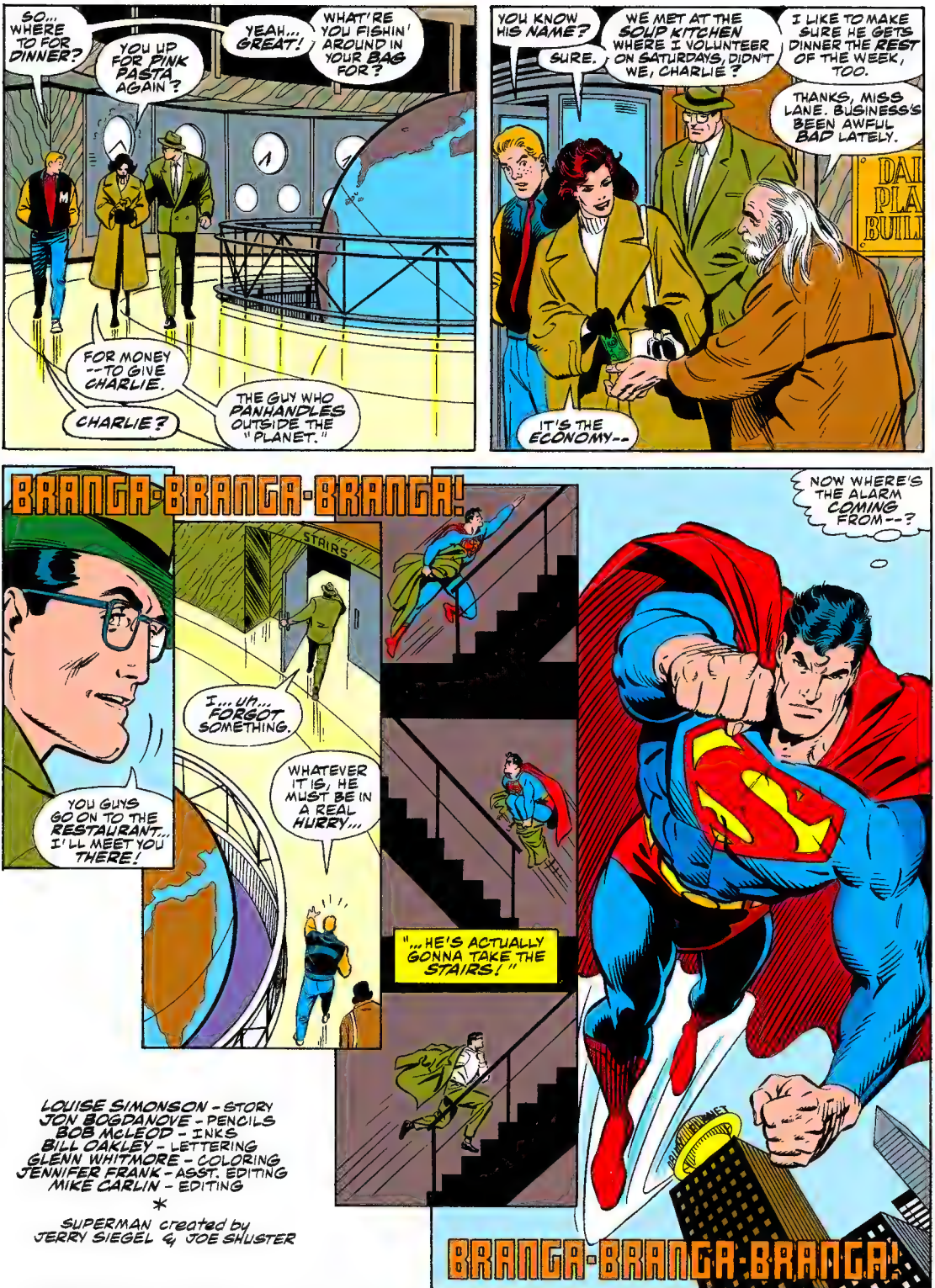
BUT IN THE MEANTIME, MY *SUBJECTS*, LET'S TALK ABOUT PAYING THE *RENT*.

SURE.

HEY! YOU-- YOU *FRIED* MY *DEED*!

BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, GARDNER.

THE END


SO... WHERE TO FOR DINNER?
YOU UP FOR PINK PASTA AGAIN?
YEAH... GREAT!
WHAT'RE YOU FISHIN' AROUND IN YOUR BAG FOR?
FOR MONEY --TO GIVE CHARLIE.
CHARLIE?
THE GUY WHO PANHANDLES OUTSIDE THE "PLANET."
YOU KNOW HIS NAME?
SURE.
WE MET AT THE SOUP KITCHEN WHERE I VOLUNTEER ON SATURDAYS, DIDN'T WE, CHARLIE?
I LIKE TO MAKE SURE HE GETS DINNER THE REST OF THE WEEK, TOO.
THANKS, MISS LANE. BUSINESS'S BEEN AWFUL BAD LATELY.
IT'S THE ECONOMY--
BRANGA-BRANGA-BRANGA!
STAIRS
YOU GUYS GO ON TO THE RESTAURANT... I'LL MEET YOU THERE!
I... UH... FORGOT SOMETHING.
WHATEVER IT IS, HE MUST BE IN A REAL HURRY...
"...HE'S ACTUALLY GONNA TAKE THE STAIRS!"
NOW WHERE'S THE ALARM COMING FROM--?
BRANGA-BRANGA-BRANGA!

LOUISE SIMONSON - STORY
JON BOGDANOVE - PENCILS
BOB McLEOD - INKS
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERING
GLENN WHITMORE - COLORING
JENNIFER FRANK - ASST. EDITING
MIKE CARLIN - EDITING

*

SUPERMAN created by
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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G-7697

BRANGA-BRANGA!

IT'S SUPERMAN!

DROP YOUR GUNS AND SURRENDER-- NOW!

GUN SHOP
A. RIZZO prop

DROP 'EM?

AFTER WE'VE GONE TO ALL THE TROUBLE TO STEAL 'EM?

HERE BE MONSTERS

YOU WANT 'EM, STEEL-HEAD, COME ON OVER HERE AN' TAKE 'EM!

YOU'D THINK GUYS LIKE YOU WOULD HAVE LEARNED BY NOW!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE GOING TO STOP ME WITH BULLETS?!

BLAM

DUM

DBAM

BDAM

DAM

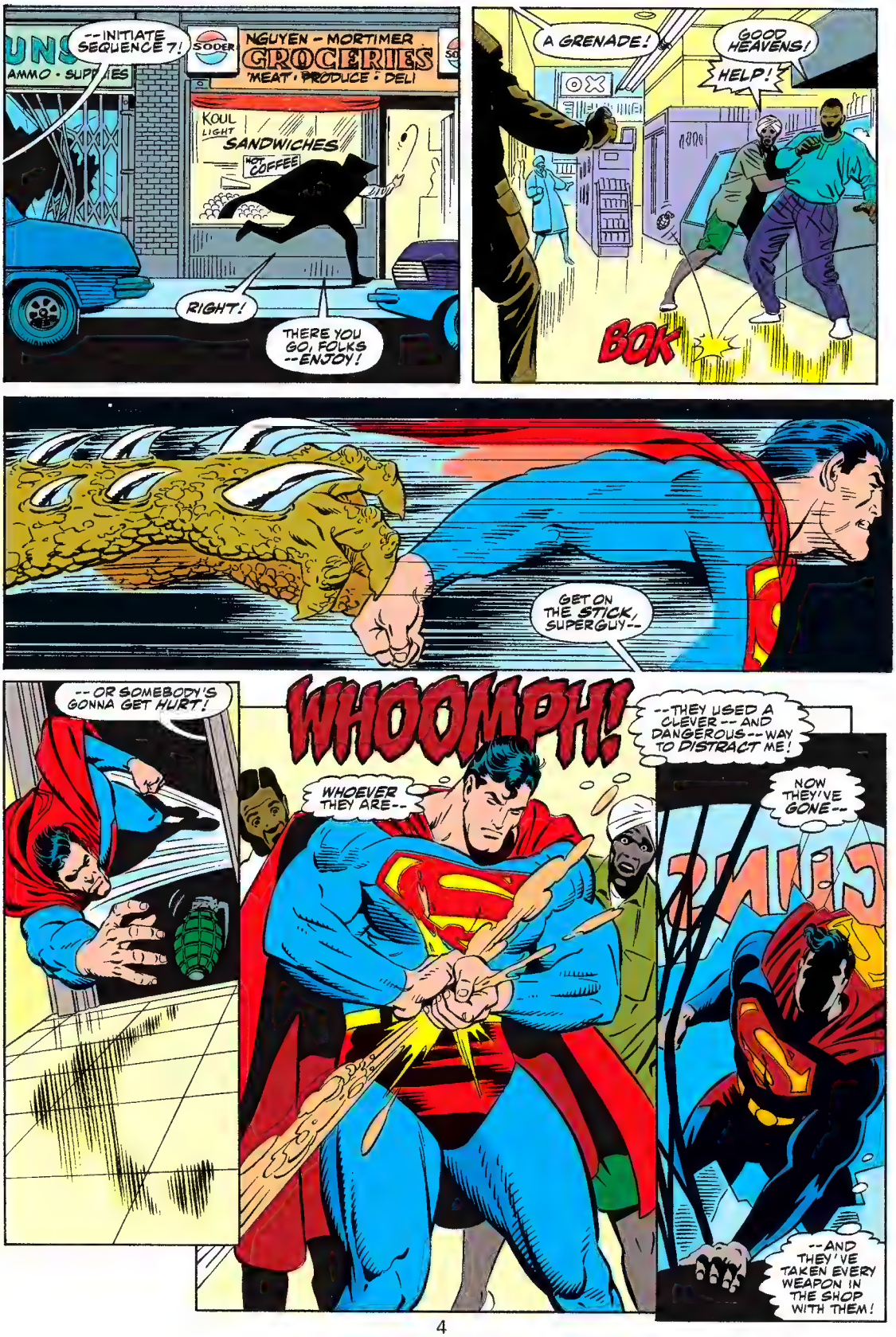
BRAM

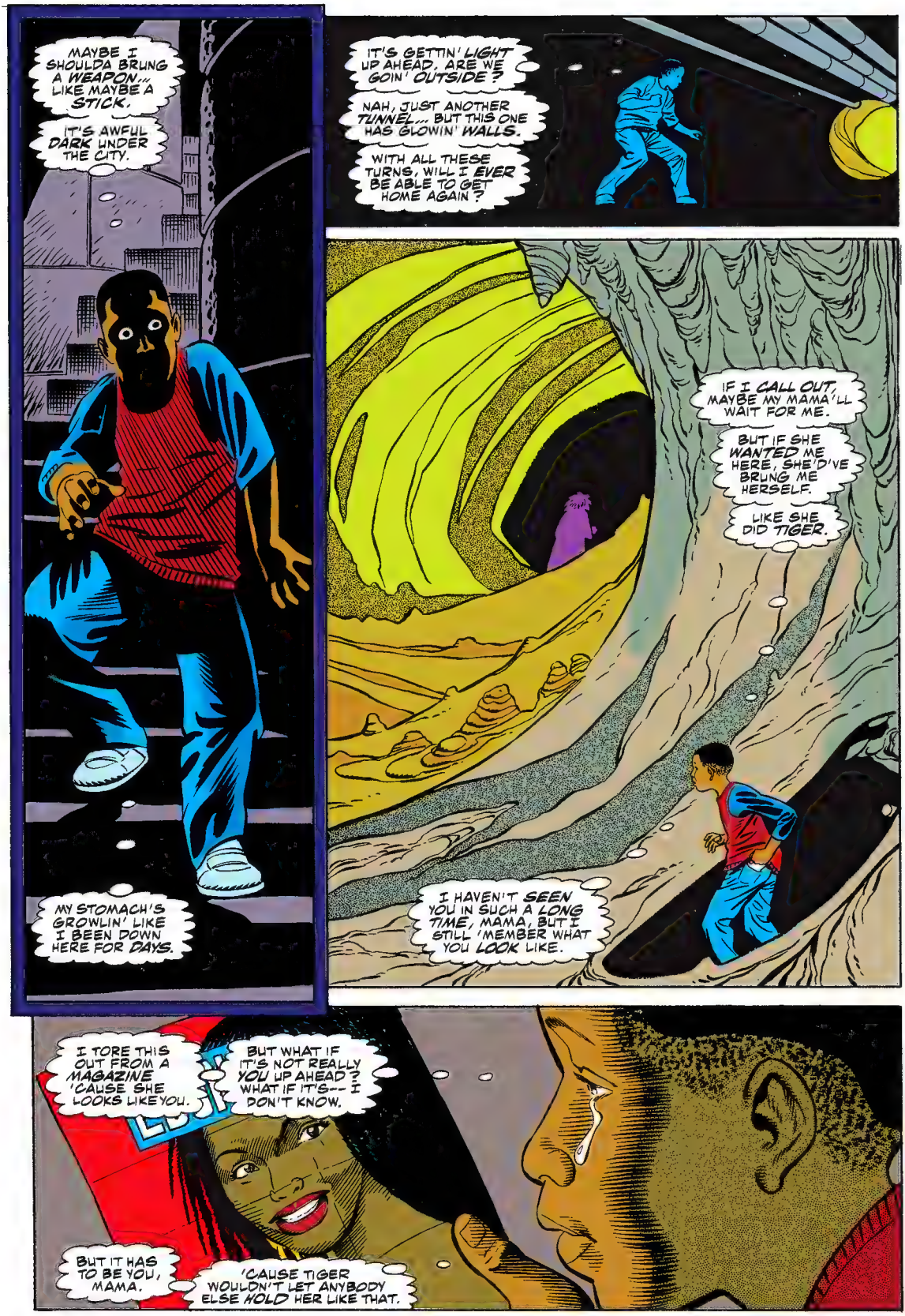
AMONG OTHER THINGS!

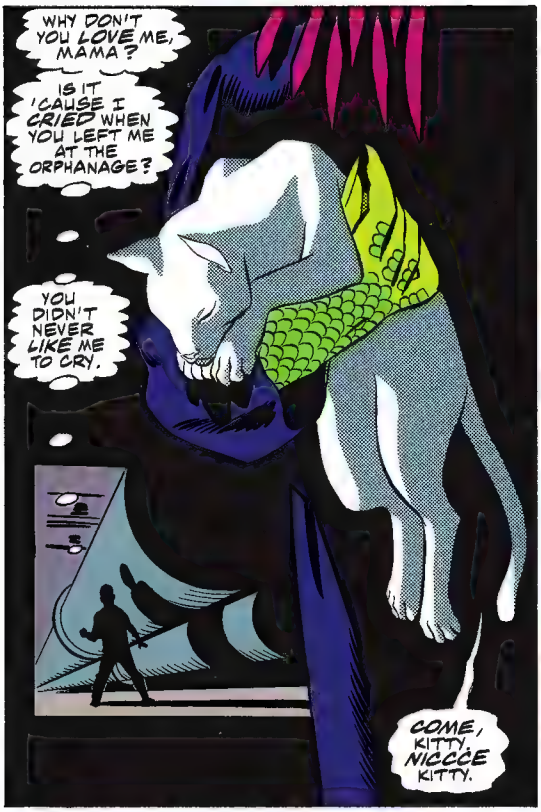
CLAWSTER!

GOT 'IM!

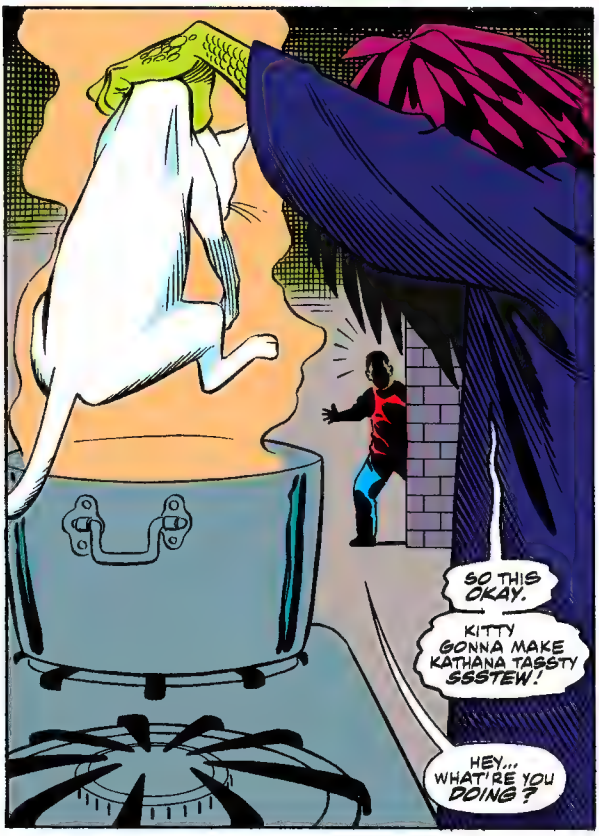
GOOD! NOW, LIGHTNING ROD--


--INITIATE SEQUENCE 7!
AMMO · SUPPLIES
SODER
NGUYEN - MORTIMER
GROCERIES
MEAT · PRODUCE · DELI
KOUL LIGHT
SANDWICHES
HOT COFFEE
RIGHT!
THERE YOU GO, FOLKS --ENJOY!
A GRENADE!
GOOD HEAVENS!
HELP!
BOK
GET ON THE STICK, SUPERGUY--
--OR SOMEBODY'S GONNA GET HURT!
WHOOMPH!
WHOEVER THEY ARE--
--THEY USED A CLEVER -- AND DANGEROUS -- WAY TO DISTRACT ME!
NOW THEY'VE GONE--
--AND THEY'VE TAKEN EVERY WEAPON IN THE SHOP WITH THEM!


MAYBE I SHOULDA BRUNG A WEAPON... LIKE MAYBE A STICK.
IT'S AWFUL DARK UNDER THE CITY.
MY STOMACH'S GROWLIN' LIKE I BEEN DOWN HERE FOR DAYS.
IT'S GETTIN' LIGHT UP AHEAD, ARE WE GOIN' OUTSIDE?
NAH, JUST ANOTHER TUNNEL... BUT THIS ONE HAS GLOWIN' WALLS.
WITH ALL THESE TURNS, WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO GET HOME AGAIN?
IF I CALL OUT, MAYBE MY MAMA'LL WAIT FOR ME.
BUT IF SHE WANTED ME HERE, SHE'D'VE BRUNG ME HERSELF.
LIKE SHE DID TIGER.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN SUCH A LONG TIME, MAMA, BUT I STILL 'MEMBER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE.
I TORE THIS OUT FROM A MAGAZINE 'CAUSE SHE LOOKS LIKE YOU.
BUT WHAT IF IT'S NOT REALLY YOU UP AHEAD? WHAT IF IT'S-- I DON'T KNOW.
BUT IT HAS TO BE YOU, MAMA.
'CAUSE TIGER WOULDN'T LET ANYBODY ELSE HOLD HER LIKE THAT.

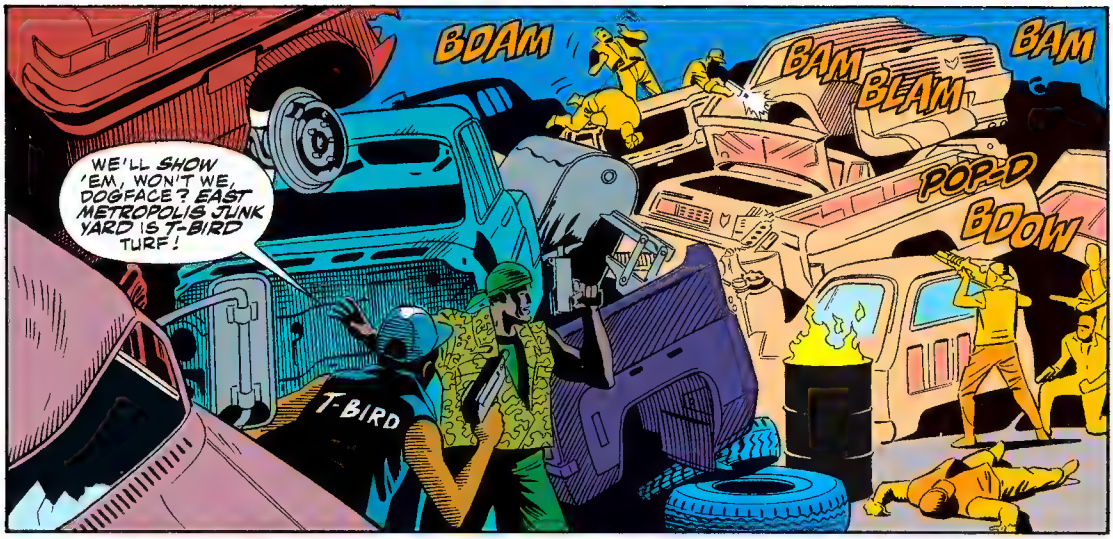

WHY DON'T YOU LOVE ME, MAMA?
IS IT 'CAUSE I CRIED WHEN YOU LEFT ME AT THE ORPHANAGE?
YOU DIDN'T NEVER LIKE ME TO CRY.
COME, KITTY, NICCCE KITTY.

IF I STEP OUT NOW AN' SHOW HER HOW BRAVE I AM, MAYBE SHE'LL LET ME STAY.
I GOTTA DO SOMETHIN' TA SHOW HER.
I MUST BE A PRETTY BAD KID FOR MAMA NOT TO LOVE ME.
DON'T WORRY, KITTY!
MASSSTER WOULDN'T WANT YOU. MASSSTER LIKE PEOPLE.


SO THIS OKAY.
KITTY GONNA MAKE KATHANA TASSTY SSSTEW!
HEY... WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

MAMA--
NO!

HSSSSS! WHAT THISSS?
LITTLE BOY?
COME TO STEAL KATHANA'SSS DINNER, HAVE YOU, BOY?
OR TO TAKE KITTY'SSS PLACCCE IN KATHANA'SSS SSSTEW?
NO! LET ME GO!
YOU'RE NOT MY MAMA!
'COURSSSE I'M NOT! SSSILLY BOY... YOU GOT NO SSSCALESSS!
SO... SO WHY DID TIGER C-COME WITH YOU?
KITTY HAD NO CHOICCCE...!
LOOK INTO MY EYESSS, BOY...
...AND KATHANA SSSHOW YOU!

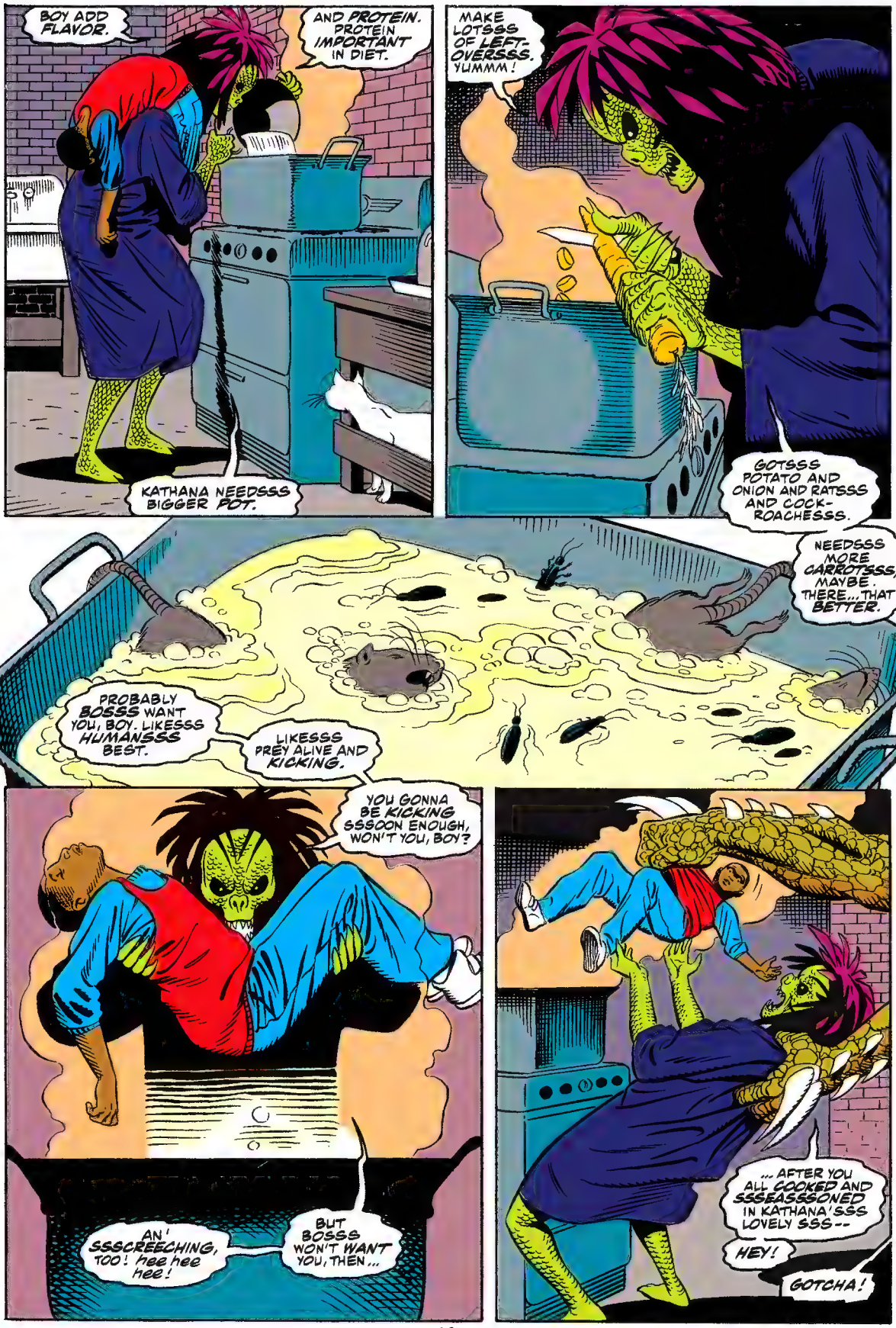

BDAm
BAM BLAM
BAM
POP-D
BDOW
WE'LL SHOW 'EM, WON'T WE, DOGFACE? EAST METROPOLIS JUNK YARD IS T-BIRD TURF!
T-BIRD

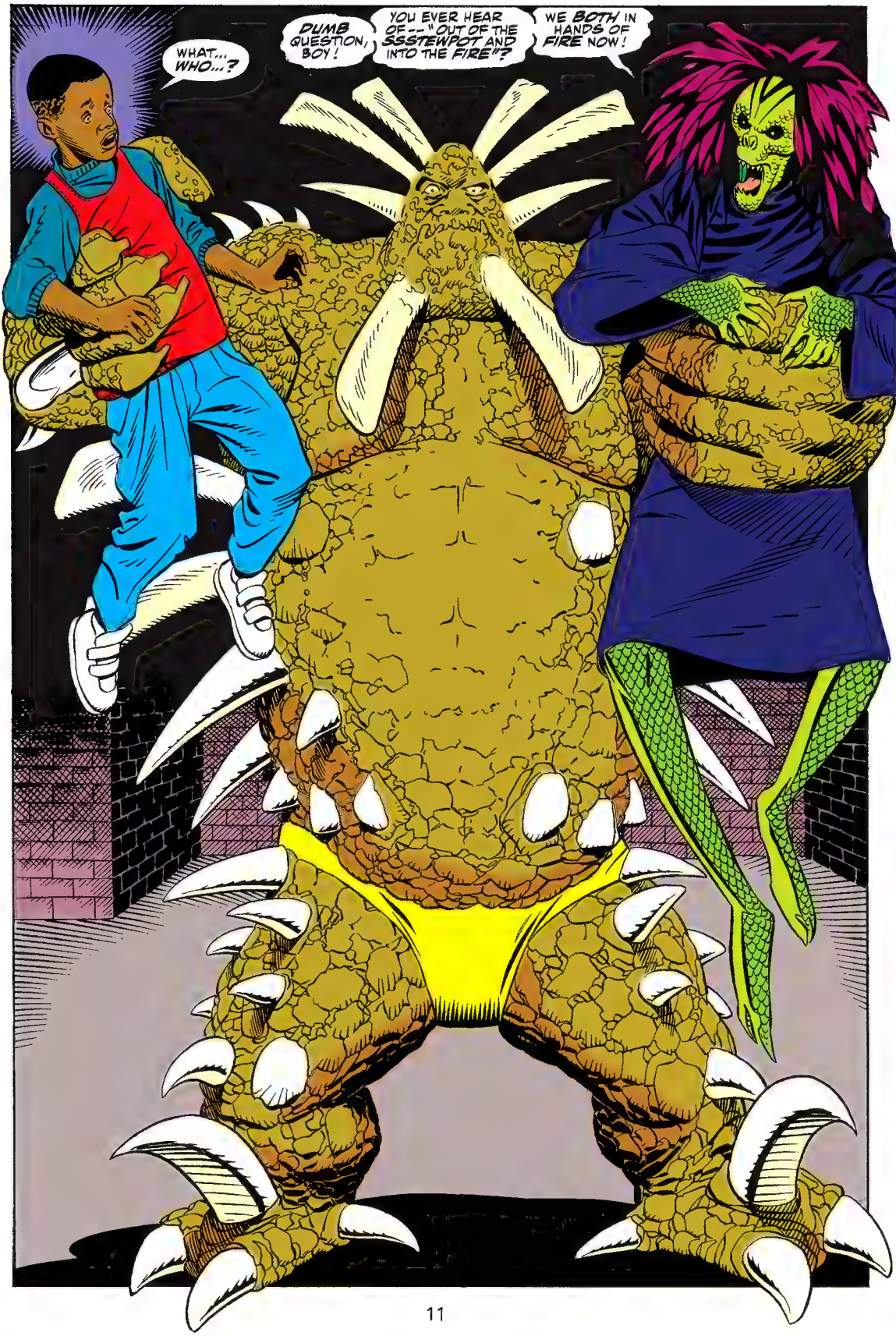
RHARR!
BLAM BAM POP-PDOP BDOW
RAIDERS
YEAH, SCAR. I'D SAY WE'RE MAKIN' THAT PROPOSITION REAL CLEAR.

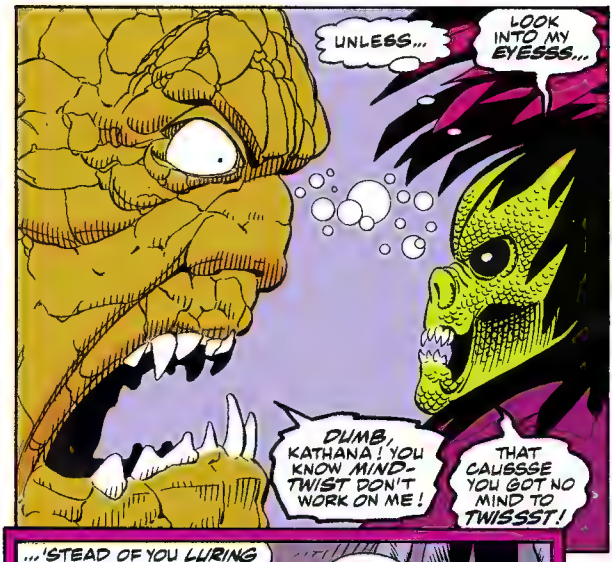
AARRRGH!

WHAT WAS THAT?
SOMEBODY POPPED SOMEBODY, THAT'S ALL!
NO, THAT AIN'T ALL! DOGFACE-- BEHIND US-- LOOK!
RAIDERS

YEARRGLLE!
BLAM BAM POAM
MADRE! WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING?
I THINK IT HAS RICO!
IT'S GONE NOW! FADED BACK INTO THE JUNK!
WHERE DID IT--
AAARGH!
DOGFACE!
N... NO...
RAIDERS


BOY ADD FLAVOR.
AND PROTEIN. PROTEIN IMPORTANT IN DIET.
KATHANA NEEDSSS BIGGER POT.
MAKE LOTSSS OF LEFT-OVERSSS. YUMMM!
GOTSSS POTATO AND ONION AND RATSSS AND COCK-ROACHESSS.
NEEDSSS MORE CARROTSSS, MAYBE. THERE... THAT BETTER.
PROBABLY BOSSS WANT YOU, BOY. LIKESSS HUMANSSS BEST.
LIKESSS PREY ALIVE AND KICKING.
YOU GONNA BE KICKING SSSOON ENOUGH, WON'T YOU, BOY?
AN' SSSCREECHING, TOO! hee hee hee!
BUT BOSSS WON'T WANT YOU, THEN...
... AFTER YOU ALL COOKED AND SSSEASSSONED IN KATHANA'SSS LOVELY SSS--
HEY!
GOTCHA!


WHAT... WHO...?
DUMB QUESTION, BOY!
YOU EVER HEAR OF--"OUT OF THE SSSTEWPOT AND INTO THE FIRE"?
WE BOTH IN HANDS OF FIRE NOW!

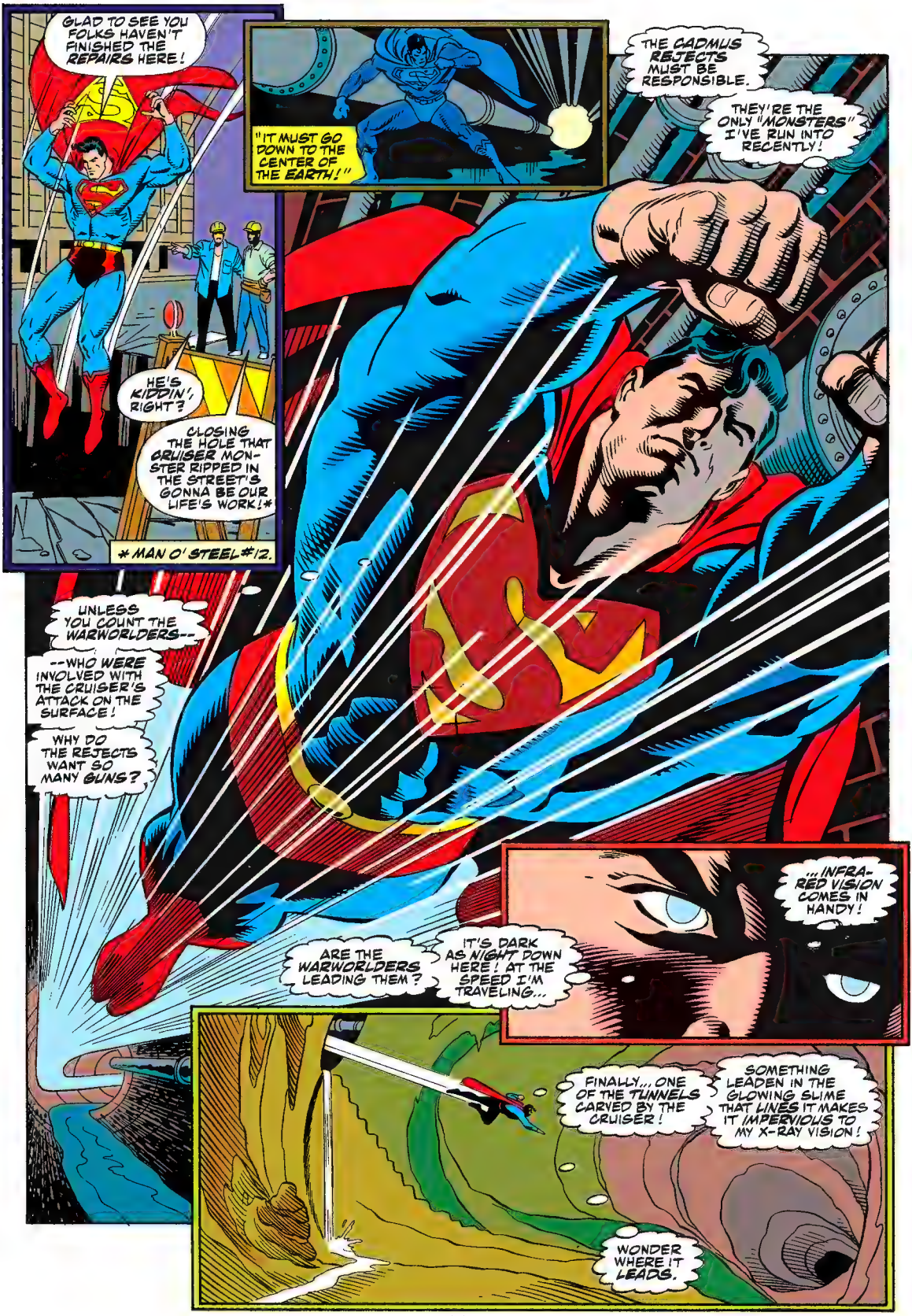

UNLESS...
LOOK INTO MY EYESSS...
DUMB, KATHANA! YOU KNOW MIND-TWIST DON'T WORK ON ME!
THAT CAUSSSE YOU GOT NO MIND TO TWISSST!

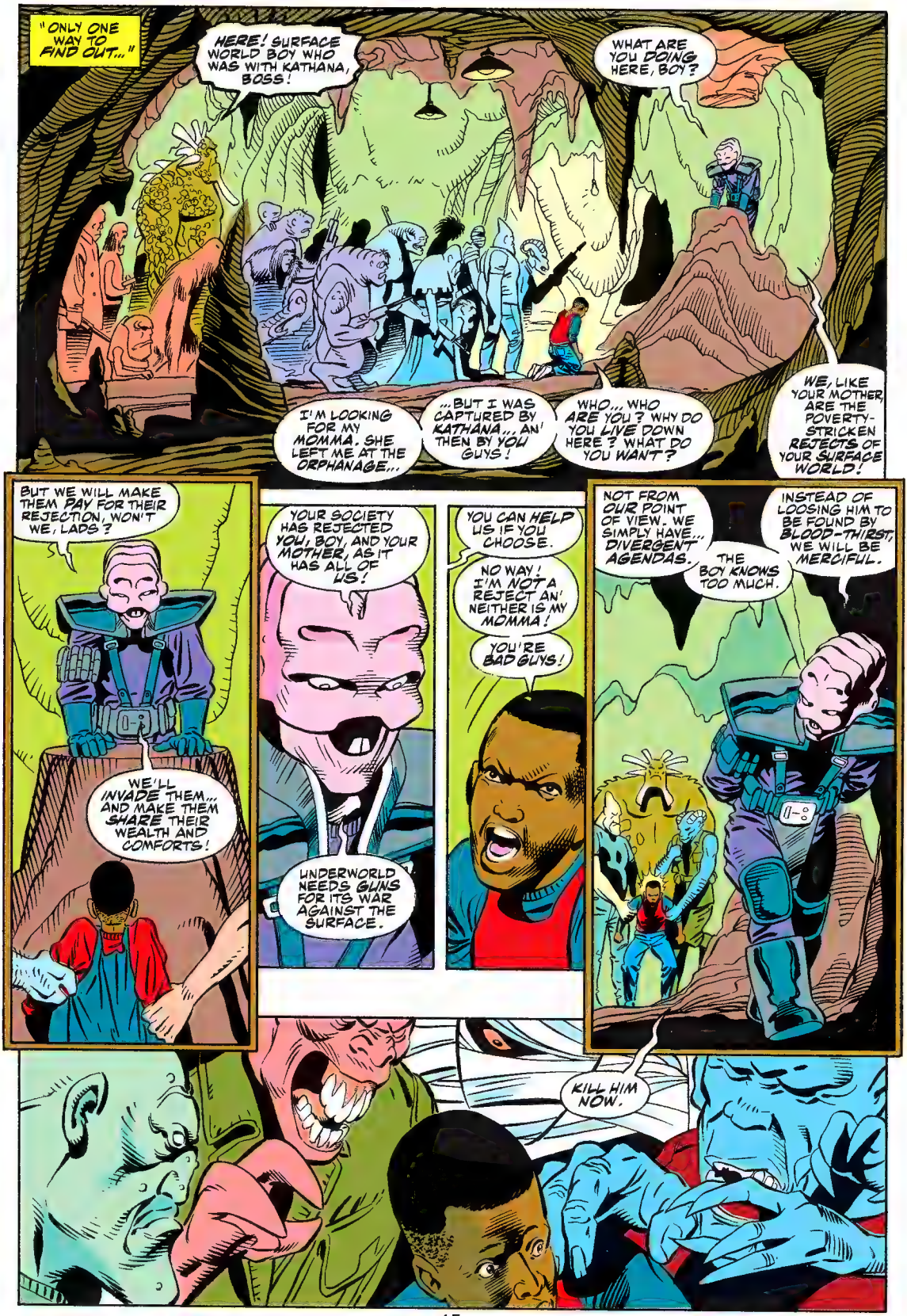
HEY-- SEE WHAT I FIND IN TUNNELS!
YOU DESERT US TO WORK FOR BLOOD-THIRST!
'CAUSE OF YOU, WE STEAL WEAPONS FROM SURFACE...

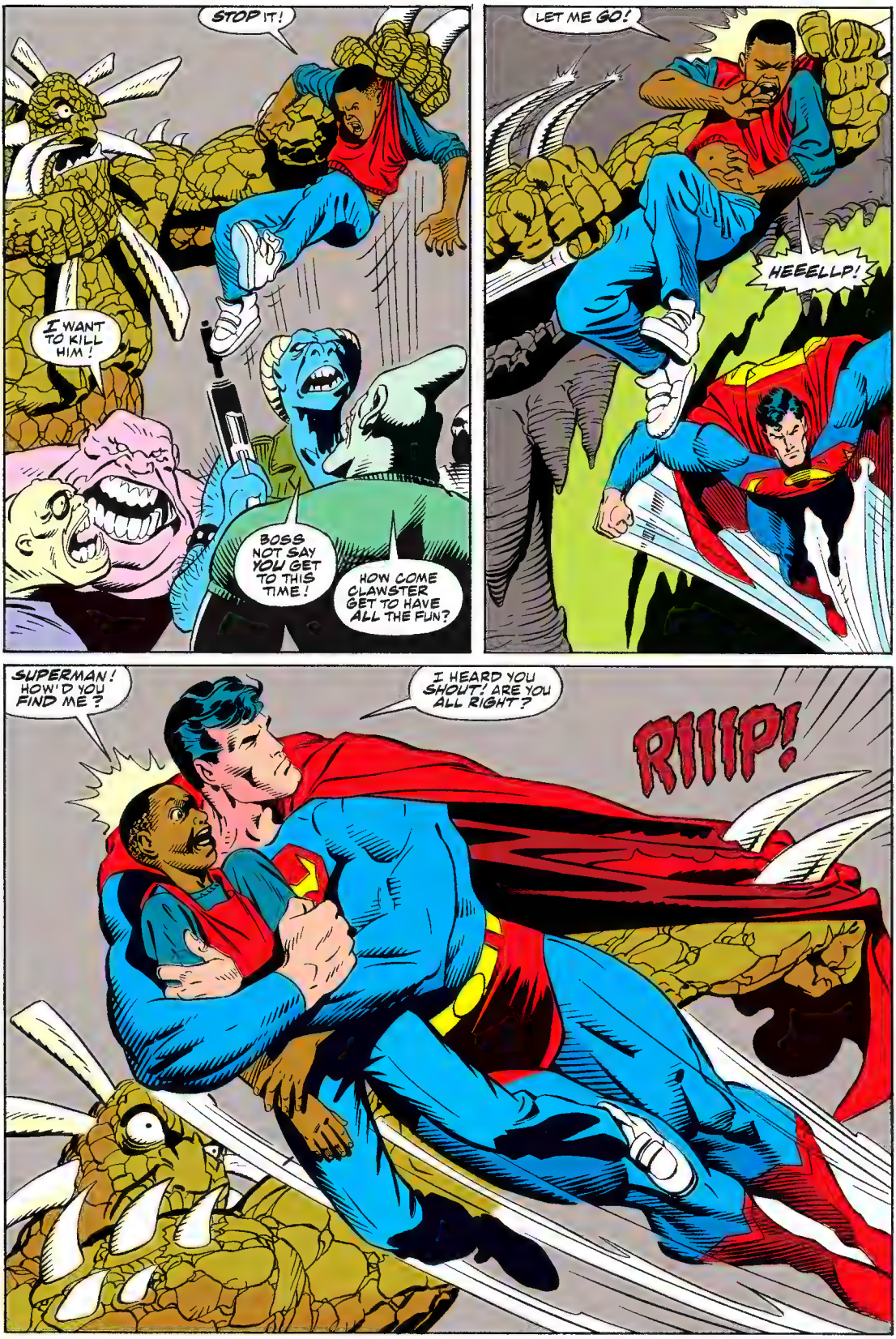
...'STEAD OF YOU LURING WEAPONS TO US!
I SAY WE KILL HER!
KILL HER NOW!
NO. BOSS SAYS KATHANA TALENT TOO USEFUL TO WASTE!

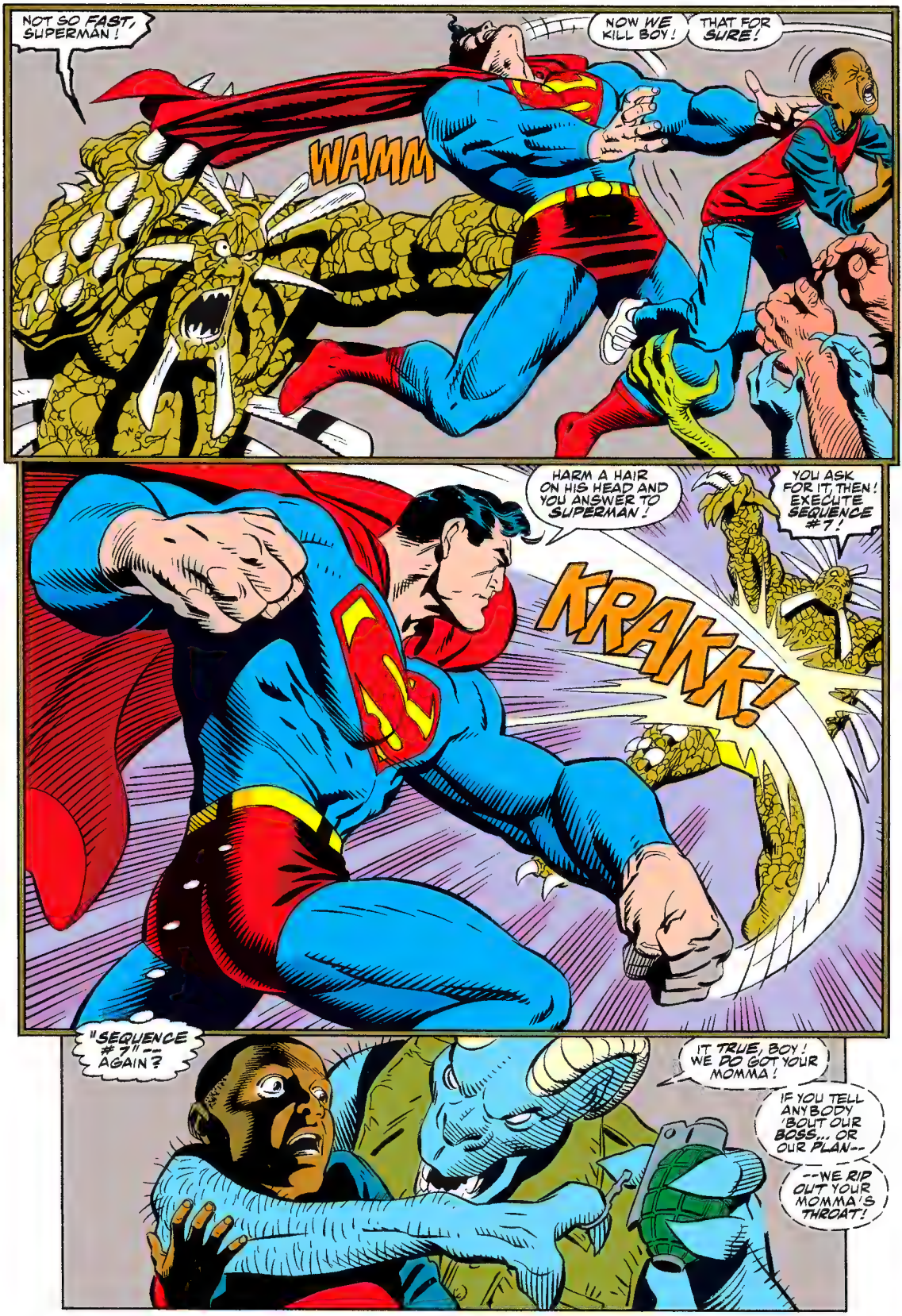
TOO BAD.
WE TAKE KATHANA AND BOY TO BOSS!
MAYBE, AT LEAST BOSS LET US KILL BOY!

AAAAAA
RAIDER
...SOME OF THEM ARE RIDDLED WITH BULLETS... AMONG OTHER WOUNDS...
SO WHERE ARE THEIR GUNS? THERE'S NOT A GUN IN SIGHT!
HEY, LIEUTENANT SAWYER, THIS ONE'S AWAKE!
HELP! YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
E.M.
HELP YOU? HOW?
IT KILLED DOGFACE... AN' THE OTHERS. I CONFESS!
DRUGS? YEAH, WE WAS DEALIN'.
NOW TAKE ME IN! I WANNA GO TO JAIL!
YOU GOTTA SAVE ME... PROTECT ME FROM THE MONSTERS!
MONSTERS, HUH? I'LL SEE YOU, MAGGIE.
I'VE GOT A HUNCH I JUST MIGHT KNOW WHAT MONSTERS HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

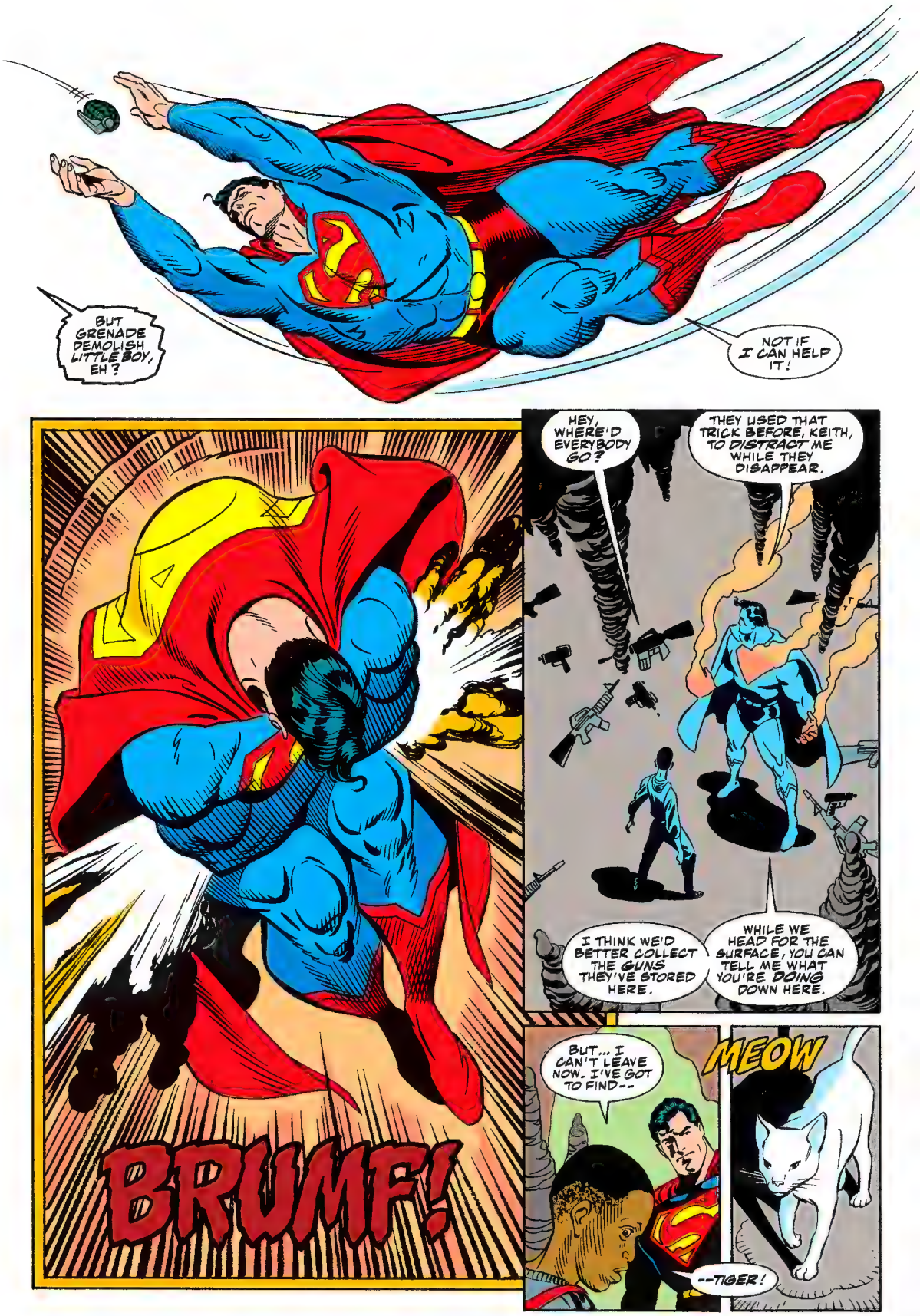

GLAD TO SEE YOU FOLKS HAVEN'T FINISHED THE REPAIRS HERE!
HE'S KIDDIN', RIGHT?
CLOSING THE HOLE THAT CRUISER MONSTER RIPPED IN THE STREET'S GONNA BE OUR LIFE'S WORK!*
* MAN O' STEEL #12.
"IT MUST GO DOWN TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH!"
THE CADMUS REJECTS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE.
THEY'RE THE ONLY "MONSTERS" I'VE RUN INTO RECENTLY!
UNLESS YOU COUNT THE WARWORLDERS--
--WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH THE CRUISER'S ATTACK ON THE SURFACE!
WHY DO THE REJECTS WANT SO MANY GUNS?
ARE THE WARWORLDERS LEADING THEM?
IT'S DARK AS NIGHT DOWN HERE! AT THE SPEED I'M TRAVELING...
...INFRA-RED VISION COMES IN HANDY!
FINALLY... ONE OF THE TUNNELS CARVED BY THE CRUISER!
SOMETHING LEADEN IN THE GLOWING SLIME THAT LINES IT MAKES IT IMPERVIOUS TO MY X-RAY VISION!
WONDER WHERE IT LEADS.

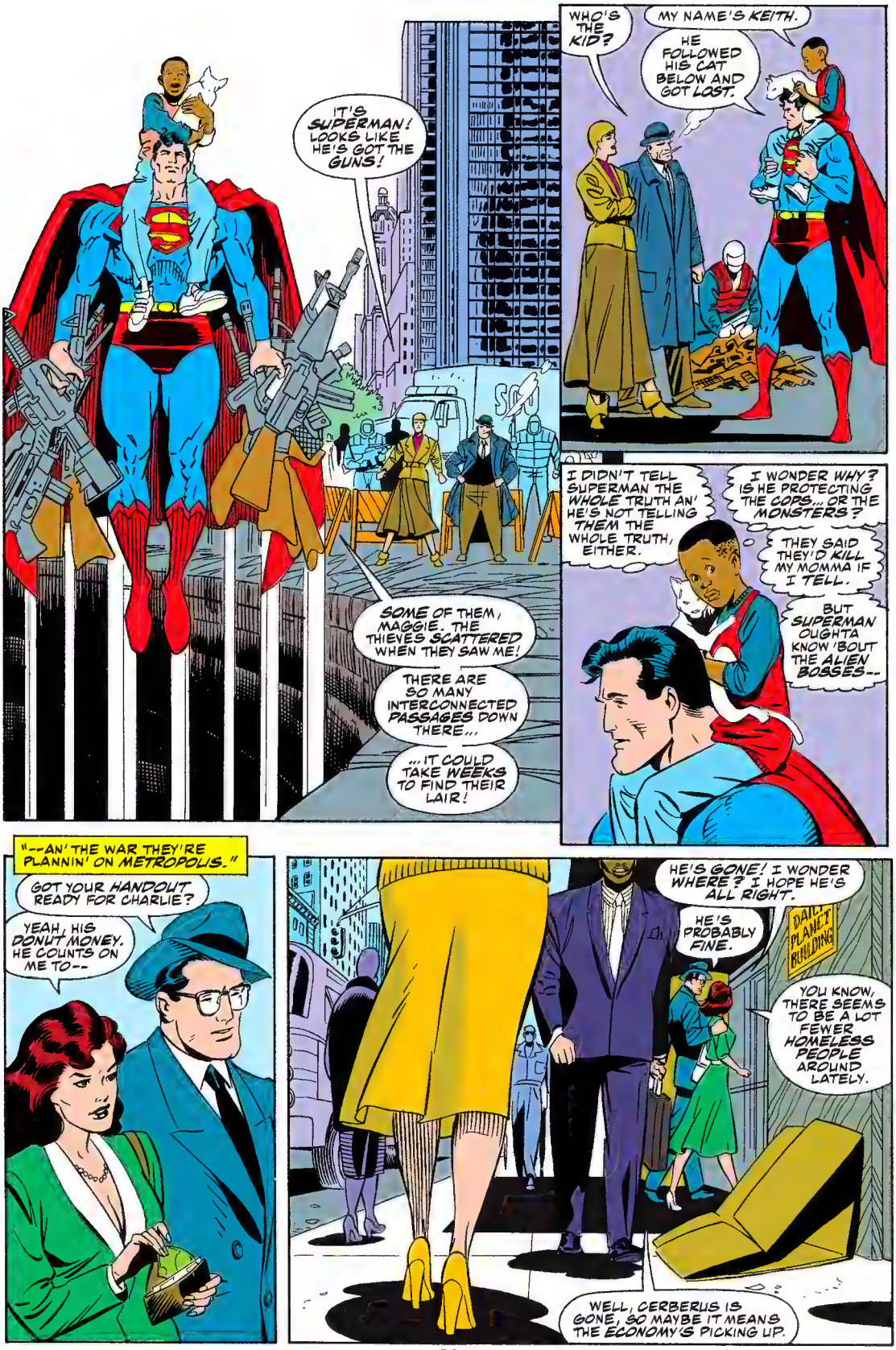

"ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT..."
HERE! SURFACE WORLD BOY WHO WAS WITH KATHANA, BOSS!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, BOY?
I'M LOOKING FOR MY MOMMA. SHE LEFT ME AT THE ORPHANAGE...
...BUT I WAS CAPTURED BY KATHANA... AN' THEN BY YOU GUYS!
WHO... WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU LIVE DOWN HERE? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WE, LIKE YOUR MOTHER, ARE THE POVERTY-STRICKEN REJECTS OF YOUR SURFACE WORLD!
BUT WE WILL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THEIR REJECTION, WON'T WE, LADS?
WE'LL INVADE THEM... AND MAKE THEM SHARE THEIR WEALTH AND COMFORTS!
YOUR SOCIETY HAS REJECTED YOU, BOY, AND YOUR MOTHER, AS IT HAS ALL OF US!
UNDERWORLD NEEDS GUNS FOR ITS WAR AGAINST THE SURFACE.
YOU CAN HELP US IF YOU CHOOSE.
NO WAY! I'M NOT A REJECT AN' NEITHER IS MY MOMMA!
YOU'RE BAD GUYS!
NOT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. WE SIMPLY HAVE... DIVERGENT AGENDAS.
THE BOY KNOWS TOO MUCH.
INSTEAD OF LOOSING HIM TO BE FOUND BY BLOOD-THIRST, WE WILL BE MERCIFUL.
KILL HIM NOW.

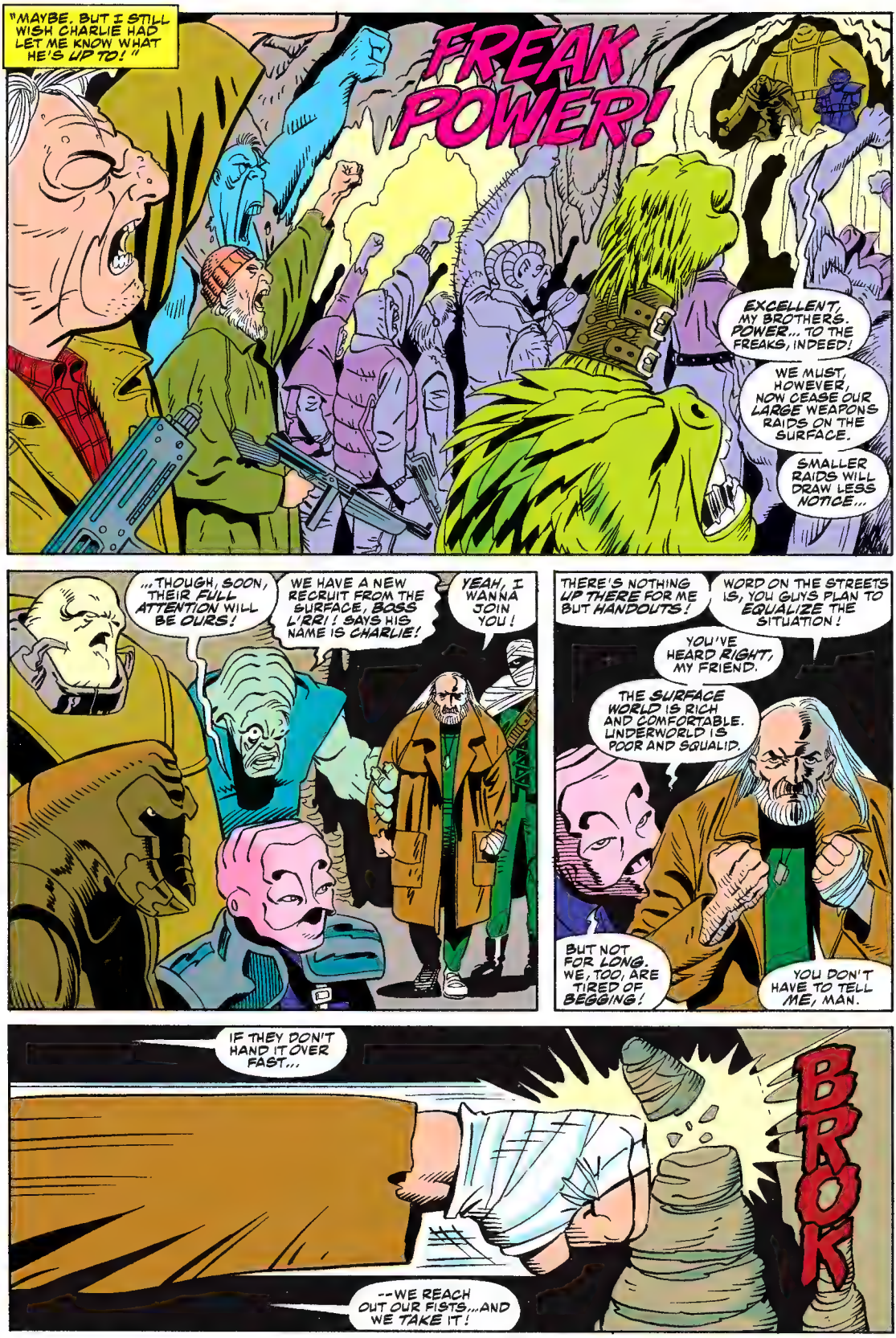

STOP IT!
I WANT TO KILL HIM!
BOSS NOT SAY YOU GET TO THIS TIME!
HOW COME CLAWSTER GET TO HAVE ALL THE FUN?
LET ME GO!
HEEELLP!
SUPERMAN! HOW'D YOU FIND ME?
I HEARD YOU SHOUT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
RIIIP!

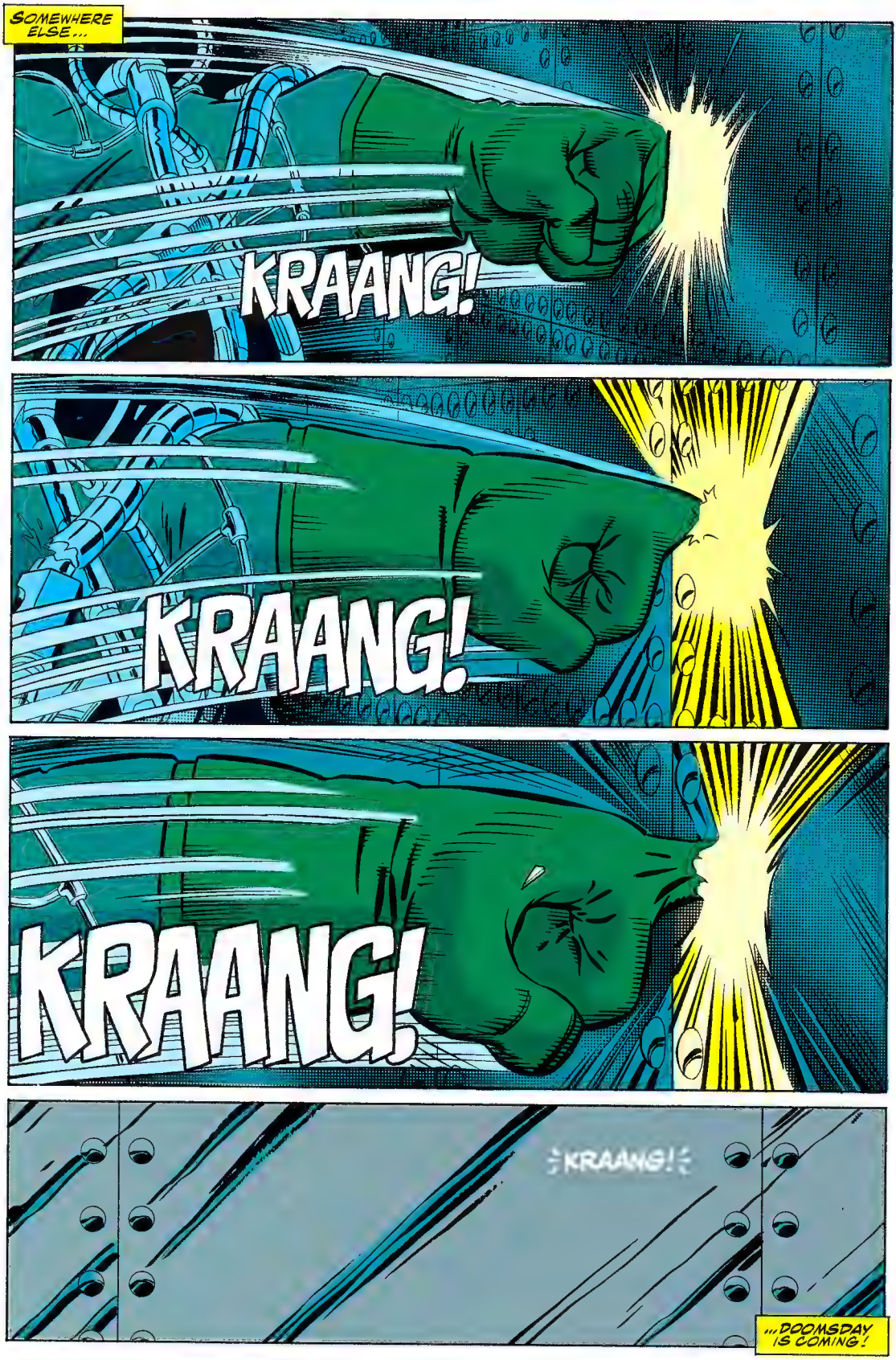

NOT SO FAST, SUPERMAN!
NOW WE KILL BOY!
THAT FOR SURE!
WAMM
HARM A HAIR ON HIS HEAD AND YOU ANSWER TO SUPERMAN!
YOU ASK FOR IT, THEN! EXECUTE SEQUENCE #7!
KRAKK!
"SEQUENCE #7"-- AGAIN?
IT TRUE, BOY! WE DO GOT YOUR MOMMA!
IF YOU TELL ANYBODY 'BOUT OUR BOSS... OR OUR PLAN--
--WE RIP OUT YOUR MOMMA'S THROAT!

THAT IS, IF YOU LIVE TO TELL ANYBODY ANYTHING!
THIS LIVE GRENADE, YOU KNOW, MAYBE YOU BETTER YELL FOR HELP--
--'FORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YELL? I CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
SUPERMAN-- A GRENADE!
IT'S COMIN' ATCHA--
--AN IT'S GONNA EXPLODE!
WHAT--?
WON'T HURT ME-- CLAWSTER INVULNERABLE --INSIDE AN' OUT!


BUT GRENADE DEMOLISH LITTLE BOY, EH?
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!
BRUMF!
HEY, WHERE'D EVERYBODY GO?
THEY USED THAT TRICK BEFORE, KEITH, TO DISTRACT ME WHILE THEY DISAPPEAR.
I THINK WE'D BETTER COLLECT THE GUNS THEY'VE STORED HERE.
WHILE WE HEAD FOR THE SURFACE, YOU CAN TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING DOWN HERE.
BUT... I CAN'T LEAVE NOW. I'VE GOT TO FIND--
MEOW
--TIGER!


IT'S SUPERMAN! LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT THE GUNS!
SOME OF THEM, MAGGIE. THE THIEVES SCATTERED WHEN THEY SAW ME!
THERE ARE SO MANY INTERCONNECTED PASSAGES DOWN THERE...
...IT COULD TAKE WEEKS TO FIND THEIR LAIR!
WHO'S THE KID?
MY NAME'S KEITH.
HE FOLLOWED HIS CAT BELOW AND GOT LOST.
I DIDN'T TELL SUPERMAN THE WHOLE TRUTH AN' HE'S NOT TELLING THEM THE WHOLE TRUTH, EITHER.
I WONDER WHY? IS HE PROTECTING THE COPS... OR THE MONSTERS?
THEY SAID THEY'D KILL MY MOMMA IF I TELL.
BUT SUPERMAN OUGHTA KNOW 'BOUT THE ALIEN BOSSES--
"--AN' THE WAR THEY'RE PLANNIN' ON METROPOLIS."
GOT YOUR HANDOUT READY FOR CHARLIE?
YEAH, HIS DONUT MONEY. HE COUNTS ON ME TO--
HE'S GONE! I WONDER WHERE? I HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT.
HE'S PROBABLY FINE.
DAILY PLANET BUILDING
YOU KNOW, THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT FEWER HOMELESS PEOPLE AROUND LATELY.
WELL, CERBERUS IS GONE, SO MAYBE IT MEANS THE ECONOMY'S PICKING UP.


"MAYBE. BUT I STILL WISH CHARLIE HAD LET ME KNOW WHAT HE'S UP TO!"
FREAK POWER!
EXCELLENT, MY BROTHERS. POWER... TO THE FREAKS, INDEED!
WE MUST, HOWEVER, NOW CEASE OUR LARGE WEAPONS RAIDS ON THE SURFACE.
SMALLER RAIDS WILL DRAW LESS NOTICE...
...THOUGH, SOON, THEIR FULL ATTENTION WILL BE OURS!
WE HAVE A NEW RECRUIT FROM THE SURFACE, BOSS L'RR! ! SAYS HIS NAME IS CHARLIE!
YEAH, I WANNA JOIN YOU!
THERE'S NOTHING UP THERE FOR ME BUT HANDOUTS!
WORD ON THE STREETS IS, YOU GUYS PLAN TO EQUALIZE THE SITUATION!
YOU'VE HEARD RIGHT, MY FRIEND.
THE SURFACE WORLD IS RICH AND COMFORTABLE. UNDERWORLD IS POOR AND SQUALID.
BUT NOT FOR LONG. WE, TOO, ARE TIRED OF BEGGING!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME, MAN.
IF THEY DON'T HAND IT OVER FAST...
--WE REACH OUT OUR FISTS...AND WE TAKE IT!
BROK


SOMEWHERE ELSE...
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
...DOOMSDAY IS COMING!

TIME RYDERS

THE JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA COMPLEX IN NEW YORK CITY. 7:22 P.M.

Story & layouts: DAN JURGENS
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colors: GLENN WHITMORE
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editor: MIKE CARLIN

SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL and JOE SHUSTER

WATCH IT, SUPES!

YOU'VE GOT A *BOGEY* ON YOUR TAIL!

HEY, I'VE SEEN THAT MATERIALIZATION EFFECT BEFORE! THAT BABE HAS TO BE ONE OF THOSE LINEAR GUYS!

VIPP

VIP

HOLD YOUR FIRE, BOOSTER! SHE'S A FRIEND!

THESE *TIME POLICE* LUNATICS TRIED HAULING ME BACK INTO THE FUTURE ONCE BEFORE.* WHY GIVE THEM ANOTHER SHOT?

WE ARE HARDLY INTERESTED IN YOU, BOOSTER GOLD. WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN SUPERMAN AND *WAVERIDER.*

WAVERIDER?! *NOW* WHAT'S THE PROBLEM, LIRI LEE?

*ADVENTURES #476.

NOT ONLY DO WE FEAR FOR HIS SANITY, BUT HIS LIFE AS WELL. WAVERIDER'S POTENTIAL PROBLEMS COULD SEVERELY IMPACT THE TIME STREAM.

WHY TELL US?

FOR A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO DESIRE SECRECY YOU SURE ARE AROUND A LOT.

IN THIS CASE IT'S NECESSARY. WAVERIDER IS THE ONE ELEMENT IN TIME WE ARE UNABLE TO TRACK AND STUDY.

UNFORTUNATELY HE IS A WILD CARD OF GREAT POTENTIAL DANGER.

IF YOU CAN'T FIND HIM, HOW CAN I? I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A MILLION YEARS IN THE PAST OR A MILLION YEARS IN THE FUTURE!

TRUE.

SINCE WE'RE UNABLE TO TRACK HIM WE MUST SPECULATE ABOUT HIS WHEREABOUTS.

WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU MAY CROSS PATHS WITH HIM SOON.

IF SO, WHAT THEN? IF YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT HIS CONDITION I SHOULD REFER HIM TO EITHER A DOCTOR OR PSYCHIATRIST!

ALL WILL BE MADE CLEAR TO YOU--

--IN TIME.

I HATE THOSE LEATHER-AND-METAL MYSTERY TYPES.

WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LAY THEIR CARDS ON THE TABLE?

UNFORTUNATELY, IN THIS LINE OF WORK, THINGS ARE NEVER THAT EASY, BOOSTER.

SO ON THAT NOTE...

...I'D BETTER HAUL IT BACK TO METROPOLIS WHILE I STILL HAVE--

"--A FEW MINUTES TO SPARE!"

HURRY, CLARK! IT'S ALMOST 7:30!

CAN I HELP IT IF IT TAKES ME 12 SECONDS TO SHAVE, SHOWER AND DRESS?

EXPLAIN THAT TO PETE AND LANA! *THEY'RE* THE ONES WAITING AT THE RESTAURANT!

GRAB YOUR PURSE, LOIS!

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT JUST LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO AVOID THEM?

I CAN'T SAY I'M OVERJOYED ABOUT THIS.

DINNERS WITH EX-GIRLFRIENDS AND THEIR FIANCES *NEVER* GO WELL.

Ping

GARY.

HELLO, KENT. LANE.

HOW'S IT GOING, GARY?

HEARD FROM ANDREA OR THE KIDS LATELY?

LOOK. I'M GETTING COUNSELING. I'M TRYING TO WORK OUT MY PROBLEMS.

IT'S *MY* BUSINESS.

NOT YOURS.

WOW. IT SEEMS YOUR WIFE-BEATING NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR IS AS IRRITATING AS EVER.

IT'S AN OMEN, LOIS. SEEING GARY HAS ME CONVINCED--

"-- THAT TONIGHT CAN ONLY GET WORSE!"

CHEZ

oule

LOIS, I SIMPLY *ADORE* YOUR EVENING DRESS!

WHY, THANK YOU, LANA! SORRY WE'RE LATE BUT CLARK WAS ON DEADLINE!

I'M SURE. AS A FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR PETE HAS SEEN MORE THAN HIS SHARE OF LATE NIGHT EMERGENCIES!

I HATE THIS.

I *REALLY* HATE THIS.

ISN'T THIS *SOMETHING*? WHO EVER WOULD HAVE DREAMED THAT THREE YOUNG KIDS FROM SMALLVILLE--

--WOULD WIND UP WHERE WE ARE TODAY?

THAT WHOLE SONS OF LIBERTY THING MUST HAVE BEEN *AWFUL*, LANA.

WELL, THANKS TO SUPERMAN THINGS TURNED OUT FOR THE BEST.

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE LANA AND PETE ARE GETTING MARRIED... BUT THEY *DO* SEEM HAPPY... I GUESS.

I WONDER, THOUGH... WONDER IF SHE'S TOLD HIM OUR--*MY*-- SECRET...

WELL, IT CERTAINLY HAS BEEN A ROUGH FEW MONTHS. THE SONS KIDNAPPED LANA AND FORCED ME TO DO THINGS--

--THAT WILL PREVENT ME FROM RUNNING FOR *ANYTHING* FOR A LONG WHILE.

THANK GOODNESS I'VE HAD LANA TO HELP ME THROUGH. SHE AND A HOUSE FULL OF KIDS ARE ALL I NEED TO BE HAPPY.

HOW ABOUT YOU TWO? PLANNING TO HAVE LITTLE ONES ONCE YOU TIE THE KNOT?

WELL... CLARK...?

GRAMPA! NO!

DAD!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GRAMPA, MOM? IS HE OKAYYYYY...

HEART ATTACK! HAVE TO GET THAT MAN TO A--*WAIT!*

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

I'M THE ONLY ONE MOVING... AS THOUGH *TIME* ITSELF HAD STOPPED!

THE *LINEAR MEN* DID THIS ONCE BEFORE! * IT *MUST* BE THEM!

*SUPERMAN #61.

FEELS STRANGE CHANGING IN FRONT OF A ROOM FULL OF PEOPLE LIKE THIS... THOUGH NO ONE CAN ACTUALLY PERCEIVE IT!

BESIDES, THE LINEAR MEN PROBABLY WANT SUPERMAN IN ON THIS MORE THAN THEY DO CLARK!

BUT WHY THIS? WHY *NOW?*

WHAT SIGNIFICANCE DOES THIS MAN'S DEATH--

NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

IT'S HIM.

YOU'RE *TORTURING* ME WITH THIS!

WAVERIDER.

I CAN'T *STAND* TO WATCH THIS ANY LONGER!

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY THE TARGET OF THIS SET-UP. ANY IDEAS WHY?

GRAMPA?

I REMEMBER THIS NIGHT SO WELL... THE NIGHT GRAMPA DIED.

IT WAS HIS BIRTHDAY.

WE'D TAKEN HIM OUT TO CELEBRATE BUT...

THAT BOY MUST BE WAVERIDER AS A *CHILD!* OR SOME APPROXIMATION OF HIM SINCE HE COMES FROM A FUTURE THAT WILL NEVER BE!

LOOK, I REALIZE THIS IS A TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE FOR YOU BUT I THINK SOME PEOPLE WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!

I HAD QUESTIONS ONCE. ABOUT *TIME.*

NOW I KNOW IT AS A *CURSE.*

I CAN LOOK INTO ANY BEING'S PAST OR FUTURE. THEIR LIVES, LOVES AND TRIUMPHS... I AM VOYEUR TO IT ALL.

ALL SAVE MY OWN. MY PAST WILL NEVER BE. AND MY FUTURE IS... *INFINITY.*

HE'S NOT LOOKING VERY GOOD... LIKE LIRI SAID.

AND I STILL DON'T KNOW IF WAVE-RIDER IS *DYING* OR WHAT... BUT HE IS DEFINITELY *CRACKING UP!*

AND NOW THEY WON'T LET ME BE.

THOSE SELF-APPOINTED GUARDIANS OF TIME--MY DOMAIN--

--HAVE EFFECTIVELY DECLARED WAR.

WHOA! LET'S TALK THIS THROUGH BEFORE ANYONE GOES OFF HALF-COCKED!

THE TIME FOR TALK IS OVER.

WHAT ARE YOU--?

UH-OH!

I CAN FEEL THE WORLD SLIPPING AWAY BEHIND ME!

FEELS AS THOUGH I'M REALLY MOVING... THOUGH I HAVEN'T BUDGED AN INCH!

WAVERIDER'S TAKING ME FOR A RIDE--TRANSPORTING US THROUGH TIME TO--

VANISHING POINT.

THE OBSERVATION POST THAT EXISTS OUTSIDE THE NORMAL FLOW OF TIME AND SPACE.

HE'S TAKING THE FIGHT RIGHT TO THE LINEAR MEN!

I WILL NOT STAND TO HAVE YOU INTERFERE WITH MY *LIFE*--!

YOU'VE TORTURED ME WITH MY *TRAGEDIES* LONG ENOUGH!

TOUGH SITUATION! WHOSE SIDE DO I CHOOSE?

HE'S HERE!

AS I EXPECTED. AND BECAUSE OF THAT--

-- I AM FULLY PREPARED TO DEAL WITH WAVERIDER.

DEFENSE SYSTEMS ACTIVATED.

LOOK, I REALIZE ALL YOU GUYS WANT TO USE TIME AS A PLAYGROUND BUT IT'S TIME YOU LEARN TO SHARE YOUR TURF!

NONE HAVE GREATER CLAIM THAN I DO! I AM A *PART* OF THE TIME-STREAM ITSELF!

WE DO! YOU ARE DANGEROUS--IRRESPONSIBLE AND **RECKLESS!**

ENOUGH... WE'LL SETTLE THIS *AFTER* THEY'RE IN STASIS.

STASIS?

THEY THINK THEY CAN FREEZE TIME FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN MOLD AND SHAPE IT?

CAN'T... MOVE...!

I AM *ENERGY* COME TO LIFE. WATCH AS I SHAPE AND RESTRUCTURE YOUR EFFORT TO HALT TIME'S NATURAL FLOW--

--AND GIVE YOU MORE OF US THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!

YOU ARE LOOKING AT FUTURE VERSIONS OF SUPERMAN AND ME-- EXISTING MICRO SECONDS FROM NOW--

--AND BROUGHT INTO THEIR PAST! OUR *PRESENT!*

WEIRD!

AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF YOUR DISREGARD FOR THE SANCTITY OF *TIME!*

AND PRECISELY *WHY* YOU'RE CONSIDERED TOO DANGEROUS TO EXIST UNCHECKED.

YOU CALL ME *DANGEROUS!?*

YOU'RE THE ONES WHO WOULD TURN A PRIVATE TRAGEDY OF MINE INTO A *TRAP!*

ALL OF US HAVE LIVED AND RELIVED TRAGEDIES, AND THOUGH WE REGRETTED DOING IT--

--IT WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD *FIND* YOU!

SEE? YOU WOULD USE TIME TO FURTHER YOUR INTERESTS JUST AS I DO!

AM I THE REAL ME?

WE CAN'T ALLOW HIM TO LIVE, MATTHEW. HE'S A *THREAT.*

CALM DOWN, HUNTER.

YOUR LONG EXPERIENCE IN MATTERS OF TIME SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU PATIENCE BY NOW.

WE WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE NOW.

STAY OUT OF MY AFFAIRS... AS I HAVE LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO CONSIDER YOU ENEMIES.

GOOD! HE'S PULLING US BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

WAIT.

CONSIDER THAT I HAD A RIGHT TO INVADE THAT MOMENT FROM YOUR CHILDHOOD.

IT WAS MY *MEMORY--MY* CHILDHOOD TOO, WAVERIDER.

TECHNICALLY, MORE *MINE* THAN YOURS!

I *AM* THAT YOUNG BOY. I *AM* THAT MATTHEW RYDER NOW GROWN!

AND THOUGH WE SHARE VASTLY DIFFERENT ADULT LIVES, OUR PAST... OUR *PARENTS* ... ARE ALMOST *IDENTICAL!*

NO!

YOU...YOU'VE BEEN LIVING *MY* LIFE!

MY LIFE!

I WILL *NOT*--

--BE JERKED AROUND BY YOU--

--*ANYMORE!*

I MAY BE PURE ENERGY--

--BUT I AM STILL *MATTHEW RYDER!*

ARRGH!

YOU KILLED HIM.

YOU *KILLED MY HUSBAND!*

OH, MATT...

WAIT! SOMETHING'S WRONG!

IT'S GONE! VANISHING POINT HAS... *VANISHED!*

YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME, WAVERIDER! I'LL HAVE TO--

EVERYTHING SHIFTING... CHANGING!

YOU DID THIS! WHAT'S YOUR GAME NOW, WAVE-RIDER?

I CAN SENSE... THAT THE TIME STREAM HAS BEEN SEVERELY DISRUPTED.

YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T *PURPOSELY* CAUSE THIS?

I'M NOT SURE *WHAT* HAS HAPPENED.

YOU KNOW YOU DID SOMETHING TO CAUSE THIS, *MURDERER!*

YOUR CARELESSNESS AND RECKLESSNESS HAS RESULTED IN UTTER DEVASTATION!

I CAN INTUITIVELY SENSE TIME'S CONDITIONS AND STRESSES. SOME EVENT, SOME STRANGE OCCURRENCE--

--HAS WIPED OUT THIS STRUCTURE AND ITS FUTURE.

THAT "*OCCURRENCE*" IS MATT RYDER'S DEATH! YOU DID THIS! *YOU!*

GREAT. BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU *KILLED* A MAN.

NOW YOU'VE IRREVOCABLY SCREWED UP TIME AS WELL!

OF COURSE.

NOW I UNDERSTAND.

SOME OF THE MATERIALS USED TO SECURE THE POINT MUST HAVE BEEN PROCURED IN THE FUTURE BY RYDER.

WITH HIS DEATH THAT FUTURE NO LONGER EXISTS. AS A RESULT--

--WE ARE ETERNALLY TRAPPED IN THIS *NULL SPHERE.*

A NULL SPHERE! EVEN WE CAN'T ESCAPE THAT!

DAMN YOU! WE SHOULD HAVE DEALT WITH YOU LONG AGO!

SPEEE

NO! HE'S OUR ONLY HOPE OF GETTING OUT OF HERE!

DO NOT WORRY. HIS EYE BLAST CANNOT HARM ME.

AND EVEN I MAY NOT ESCAPE A NULL SPHERE. I RIDE THE CURRENTS OF TIME AND HERE--

--THERE ARE NONE!

YOU DON'T EVEN *CARE* THAT YOU'VE KILLED A MAN!

NO WONDER YOU'RE DISCORPORATING! YOU'VE LOST YOUR *HUMANITY*--YOUR *PURPOSE* FOR LIVING!

EVERYTHING YOU LOVED IS GONE, NEVER TO EXIST, AND YOU'VE BEEN BOUNCING AROUND FEELING *SORRY* FOR YOURSELF!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO KNOW THAT YOU'VE TAKEN THE SAME THINGS AWAY FROM SOMEONE ELSE?

IS YOUR OWN PRIVATE HELL SO BAD THAT YOU HAD TO DRAG US DOWN WITH YOU?!

GO AHEAD... TOUCH THE MAN YOU KILLED! FIND OUT WHAT YOU COULD'VE BEEN!

--BUT I MUST.

I--I DON'T WANT TO--

CONTACT.

JUST AS I CAN TOUCH A MAN AND LOOK INTO THEIR LIKELY FUTURE--

--SO CAN I LOOK INTO THIS MATTHEW RYDER'S SINGULAR PAST.

FROM BIRTH TO COLLEGE AGE IT'S LIKE LOOKING IN A MIRROR.

BUT FROM THEN ON, WITHOUT THE PRESENCE OF MONARCH, OUR LIVES BEGIN TO DIFFER.

THIS RYDER EARNS A DOCTORATE IN QUANTUM PHYSICS AT METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY AS I DID;

METRO

BUT WHERE I WENT TO WORK FOR MONARCH THIS RYDER WENT TO WORK FOR LEXCORP DOING TIME-TRAVEL EXPERIMENTS--

--WHERE A TENSE RELATIONSHIP WAS FORMED.

LATER, WHILE WORKING WITH THE ESTEEMED DR. HUNTER, AN EXPERIMENT WENT WRONG, BLOWING THEM OUT OF THE TIME STREAM.

CAST OUTSIDE THEIR NORMAL REALITY, THEY FORMED THE LINEAR MEN AND-- AND--

MY GOD.

THIS MAN I KILLED. THIS MATTHEW RYDER--

-- IS MORE IMPORTANT TO TIME THAN I AM!

IS THIS WHAT I'VE BECOME? AS EVIL AS MONARCH EVER WAS?

WHAT HAVE I DONE?

WHAT CONSEQUENCES WILL MY ACTIONS HAVE?

SEE? YOU TWO WERE SO SIMILAR. THOUGH YOU WERE FROM SEPARATE WORLDS--

--YOU WALKED PATHS CLOSER THAN MOST BROTHERS!

YES. I NEVER REALIZED HOW WRONG I WAS...

THERE MAY YET BE A WAY TO RECTIFY THIS SITUATION.

A WAY TO RESTORE TIME'S INTEGRITY.

BUT TO DO THAT YOU'D HAVE TO...TO...

NO. EVEN *YOU* CAN'T DO THAT... CAN YOU?

YES... THERE MIGHT BE A WAY. AND FOR THE SAKE OF TIME'S TRUE FLOW--

--IT HAS TO BE ATTEMPT-ED.

NO! I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING AND I WON'T LET YOU TRY IT! WHAT'S DONE IS *DONE!*

SPEEEE

THANK YOU, HUNTER.

YOUR WEAPON FIRES THE *SAME TYPE* OF ENERGY AS RYDER'S *DEFENSE GLOBES!*

AS I DID BEFORE, I CAN TAKE THAT ENERGY--

--BEND IT, SHAPE IT--

-- AND ALTER IT UNTIL IT *WORKS FOR ME!*

MATTHEW'S BODY... IT'S GONE!

SO IS THE BLACKNESS! I'M NOT SURE, BUT I *THINK* WE'RE OUT OF THAT NULL SPHERE!

WE ARE! WE'RE BACK AT *VANISHING POI--PO--*

WHAT HAPPENED? I *THOUGHT*-- I WAS A *GONER* THERE...

...AT LEAST FOR A SECOND?

RYDER!

SOMETHING BIG HAS HAPPENED HASN'T IT? SOMETHING MAJOR.

AS FAR AS YOU'RE CONCERNED IT'S WHAT DIDN'T HAPPEN THAT IS IMPORTANT.

THOUGH I LACKED THE ABILITY TO GET US OUT OF THE NULL SPHERE--

--I KNEW I COULD REMOVE THE REASON FOR ITS EXISTENCE BY ERASING MATTHEW RYDER'S DEATH.

"USING THIS WRIST BAND I ONCE STOLE FROM LIRI LEE* AND HUNTER'S ENERGY--"

*SUPERMAN #61

"--I PULLED THIS VERSION OF MATTHEW RYDER OUT OF THE PAST ONE TENTH OF A SECOND BEFORE MY ENERGY BLAST WOULD STRIKE."

THIS IS WRONG. IT GOES AGAINST EVERYTHING WE STAND FOR!

WE DON'T KNOW THAT! SINCE WE COULD NEVER TRACK WAVERIDER--

--THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING IF THIS WAS OR WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN!

PERHAPS. BUT YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TRACKING ME ANY LONGER.

LIRI LEE, YOUR WORDS HAVE PERSUADED ME. IT'S CLEAR TO ME NOW... OUR GOALS ARE SO SIMILAR THAT IT'S OBVIOUS I BELONG HERE WITH THE LINEAR MEN.

FORGET IT.' THE WAY YOU JUST SCREWED AROUND WITH TIME--

--PROVES WE'RE NOTHING ALIKE!

WAIT. EVER SINCE OUR ROGUE MEMBER BLEW UP THE MOON* WE'VE FELT A VOID IN OUR TEAM.

AND I SAY WAVERIDER CAN FILL THAT VOID.

* IN ADVENTURES #478.

ROGUE MEMBER? THAT'S THE GUY WHO WENT AFTER BOOSTER GOLD, RIGHT?

WRONGLY SO. GOLD DOESN'T KNOW IT, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY ESSENTIAL TO THE EVOLUTION OF MAN.*

HE STAYS PUT.

* AS EXPLAINED IN MILLENNIUM.

YOU HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, DON'T YOU?

DON'T YOU?

YOU PEOPLE -- ALL FOUR OF YOU -- WIELD SO MUCH POWER AND YOU'RE SO OUT OF CONTROL IT WORRIES ME!

WHO POLICES YOUR DECISIONS?

WHO KEEPS THE LINEAR MEN IN LINE?

I THINK, SUPERMAN, THAT IT IS FINALLY TIME--

"--FOR US TO SEND YOU HOME!"

DAD!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH GRAMPA, MOM? IS HE OKAYYYYY...

I'M BACK-- AND TIME HAS RESUMED ITS NORMAL FLOW.

WHAT NOW? I FEEL LIKE I SHOULD HELP--

--YET I KNOW THIS MAN IS SUPPOSED TO DIE TODAY!

NO! I CAN'T STAND AND WATCH WHILE--

LET US THROUGH! WE'RE DOCTORS!

STAND ASIDE!

GIVE US ROOM!

NO PULSE. BETTER TRY CPR!

NO RESPONSE. NOT EVEN A TWITCH.

I'M SORRY, FOLKS. LOOKS LIKE MASSIVE CARDIAC ARREST.

NOTHING WE CAN DO. NOTHING ANYONE CAN DO.

EXCEPT THE LINEAR MEN. THEY CAN BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE.

NO WONDER THEY SCARE ME.

IT'S OVER.

GRAMPA!

DAD?

SOMEBODY'S GOTTA HELP MY GRAMPA! PLEASE!

SOMEWHERE ELSE...

KRAANG!

KRAANG!

KRAANG!

KRAANG!

KRINK!

...DOOMSDAY IS COMING!

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
DENNIS JANKE ARTIST/CO-PLOTTER
JERRY ORDWAY WRITER/CO-PLOTTER
GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST
BILL PEARSON LETTERER
JENNIFER FRANK ASSISTANT EDITOR
MIKE CARLIN EDITOR IN CHEESE
THE MICROFILM LIBRARY OF THE DAILY PLANET...
CLARK, OLD MAN, YOUR EYES MUST BE PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU.
THIS NEWSPAPER'S FROM TWENTY YEARS AGO!
PLANET & LIBRARY
DAILY ∅ PLANET
MXYZPTLK WINS IN LANDSLIDE
CARLIN LOSES STATE, STILL EDITING
SPEECH WRITER: JERRY ORDWAY
POLITICAL CARTOONS: DENNIS JANKE
COLOR COMMENTARY: GLENN WHITMORE
SIGN LETTERING BILL PEARSON
ASSISTANT TO THE CHEESE JENNIFER FRANK

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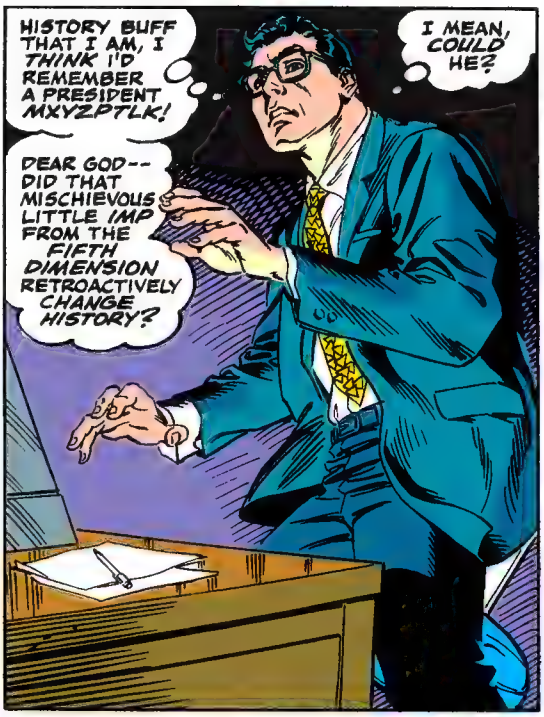
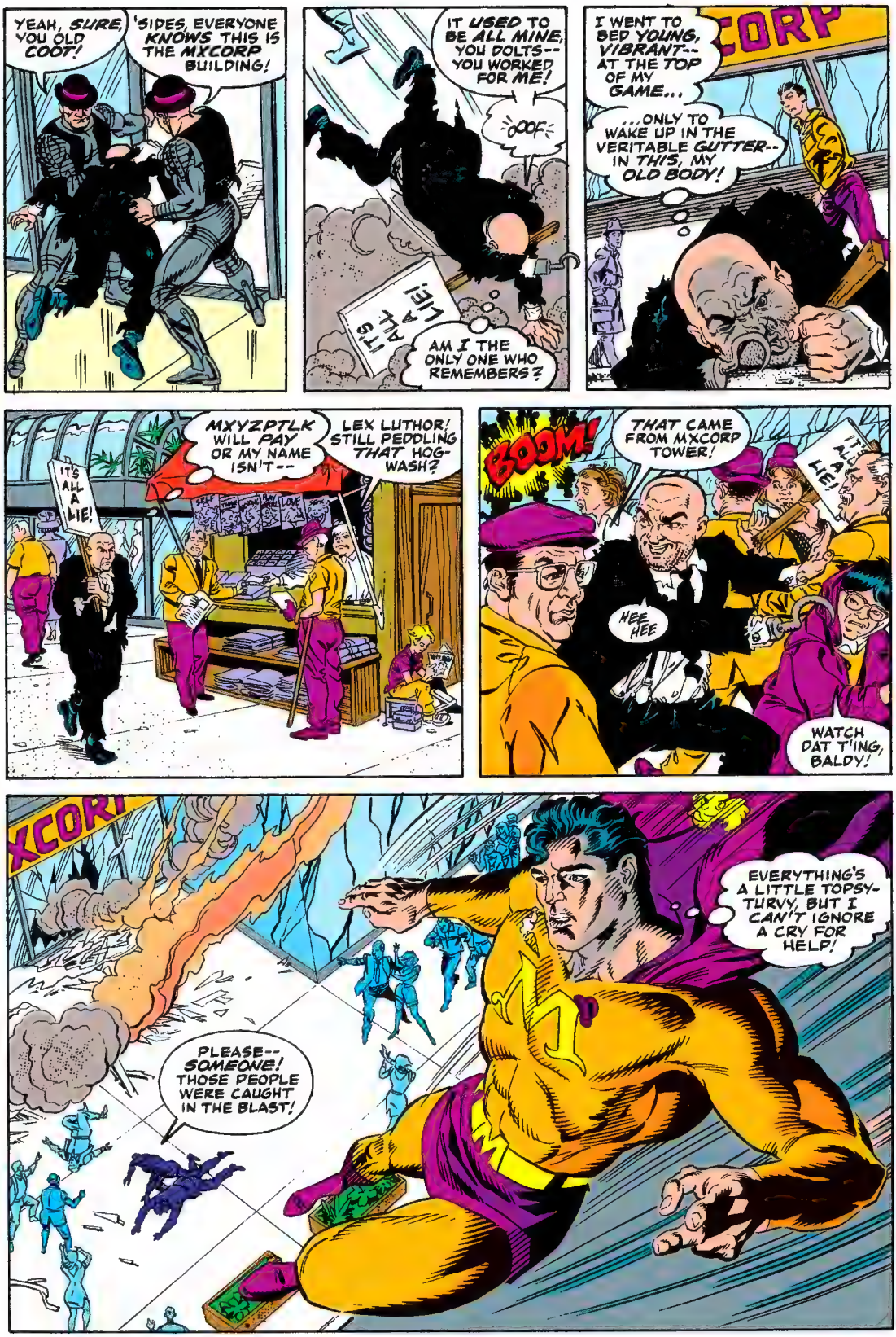

HISTORY BUFF THAT I AM, I THINK I'D REMEMBER A PRESIDENT MXYZPTLK!
I MEAN, COULD HE?
DEAR GOD-- DID THAT MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE IMP FROM THE FIFTH DIMENSION RETROACTIVELY CHANGE HISTORY?

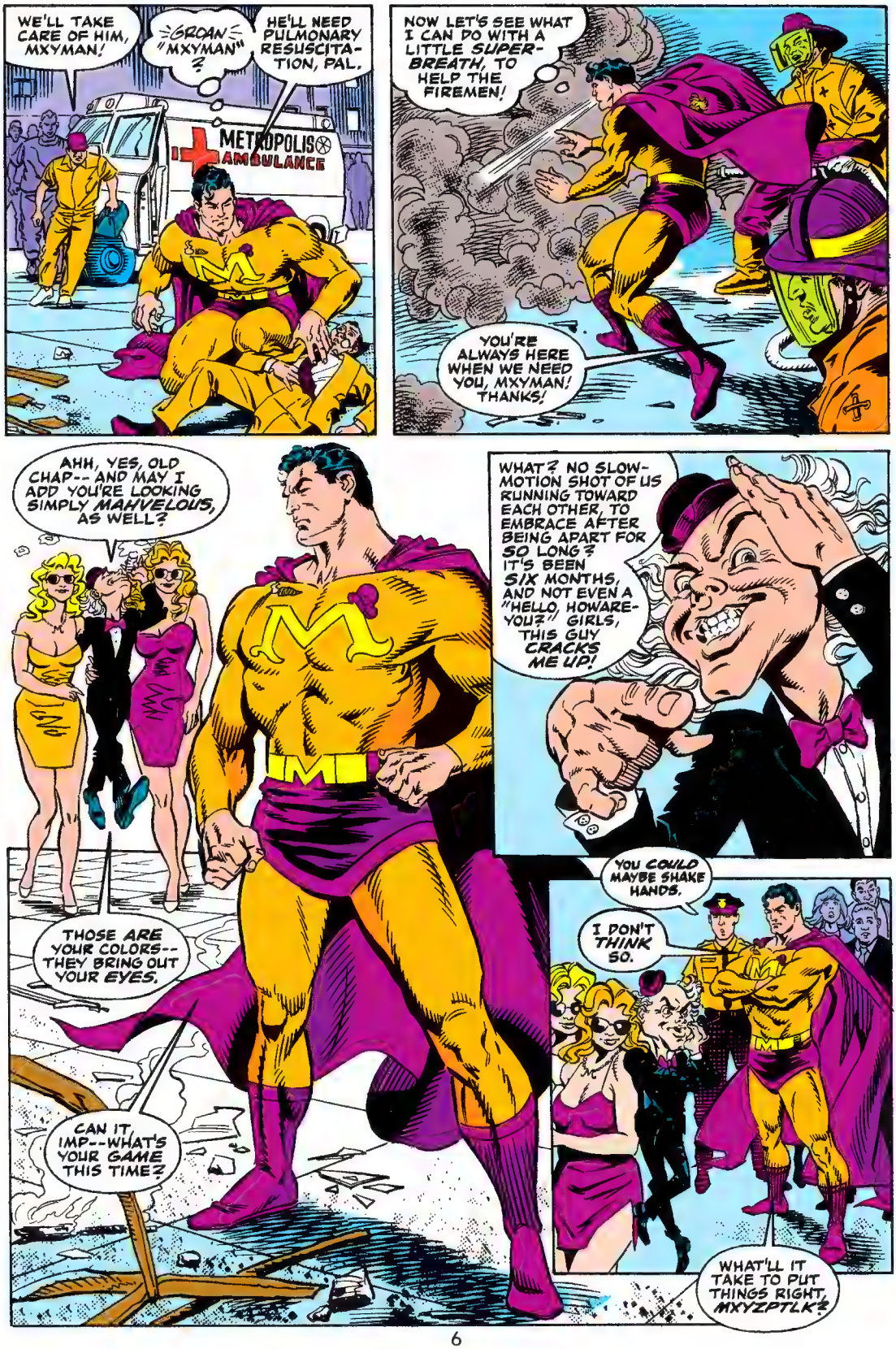
HIS POWERS SEEMED LIMITLESS IN PAST ENCOUNTERS...
...BUT TO BE ABLE TO PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THIS WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING ?

THIS IS JUST TOO ABSURD! SHORTELL-- LASERSON-- EVEN WHIT! THEY LOOK LIKE MXYZPTLK DRESSED THEM!
DAILY PLANET MXY RESIGNS
BOB-- IT'S JUST WHAT I'VE WANTED!
PLANET ROOM
?
OF COURSE IT IS!

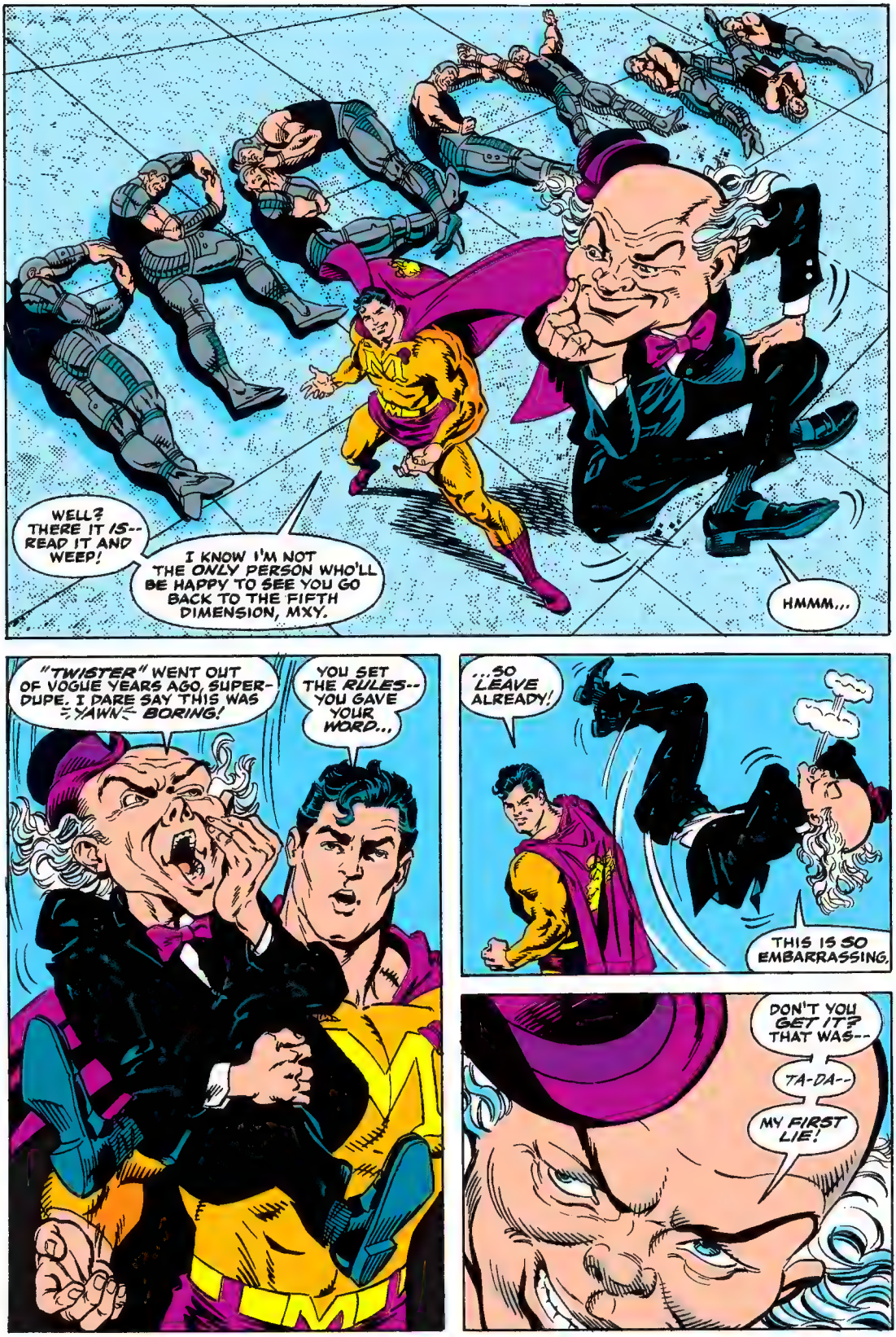
MR. KENT -- I THOUGHT YOU WERE A FASHION-CONSCIOUS GUY! WHERE'S YOUR DERBY AND ORANGE SUIT?
I'VE NEVER WORN A DERBY, JIM...
...AND I DON'T OWN AN ORANGE SUIT! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ALL OF YOU?
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HON? THAT'S WHAT YOU WORE TO WORK YESTERDAY!
NO USE ARGUING-- THE IMP'S AFFECTED ALL OF US HERE, IT SEEMS.
MR. WHITE BETTER NOT SEE HIM LIKE THAT, RIGHT, LOIS?
PERRY DOES HAVE A DRESS CODE, CLARK!
UH, SURE. SEE YOU TWO LATER!
HE EVER TELL YOU WHERE HE RUNS OFF TO LIKE THAT?
WE ARE ENGAGED, MR. OLSEN!
IF MXY DIDN'T FIGURE SO PROMI-- NENTLY IN ALL OF THIS, I'D SWEAR IT WAS JUST A BAD DREAM...
STORA ROOM
...AND NOT A JOB FOR--
...???
M

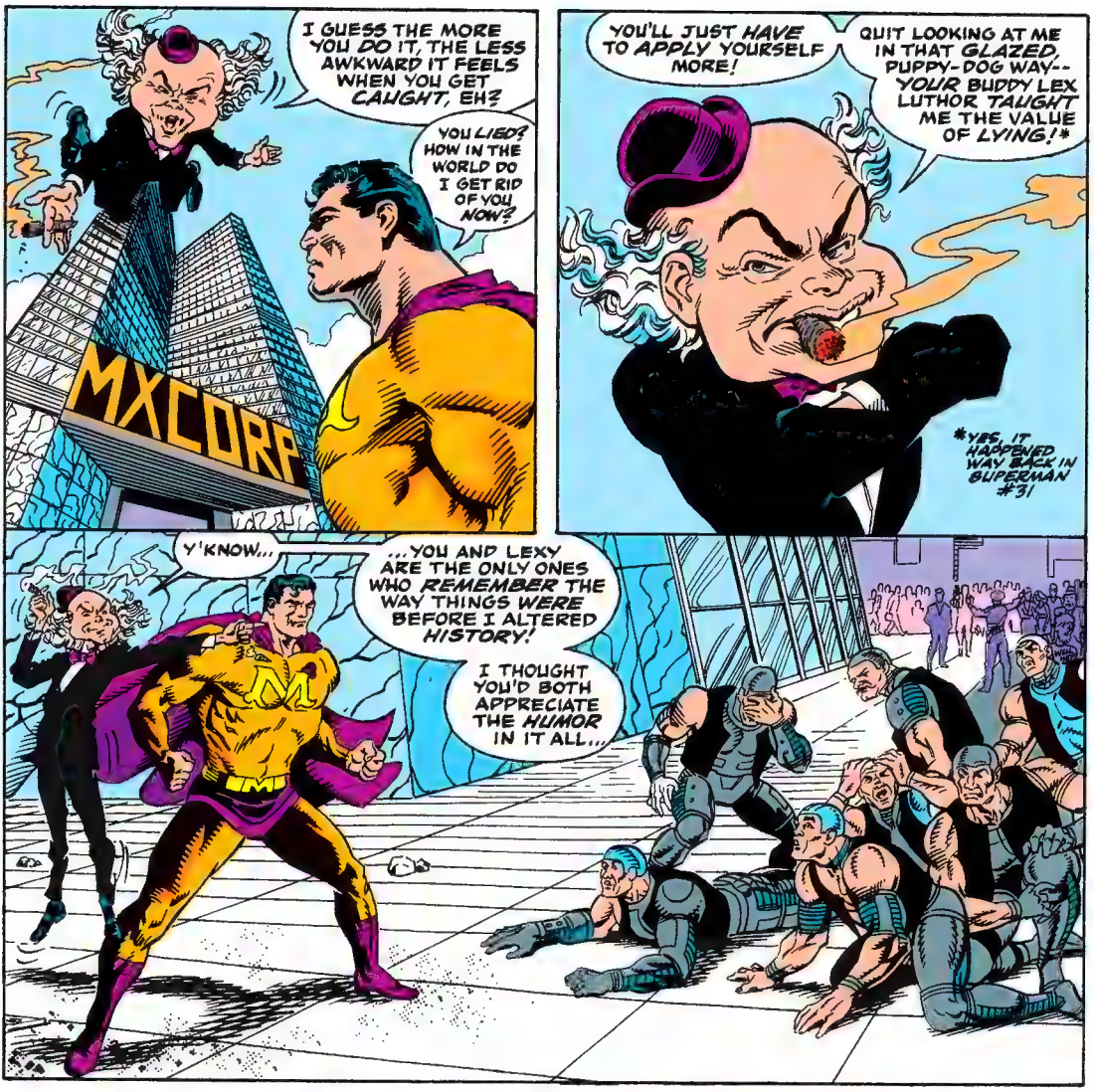
THIS JUST GETS WEIRDER AND WEIRDER!
WHEN THE LITTLE MONSTER DIDN'T SHOW UP FOR HIS REGULAR QUARTERLY VISIT, I'D HOPED HE WAS BORED WITH US.
DAILY PL
THE SCALE OF THIS PRANK MAKES UP FOR LOST TIME!
ALL I CAN DO FOR NOW IS FLY AROUND, INSPECT HIS HANDIWORK--AND WAIT FOR ANY OPENING HE GIVES ME.
EVERYWHERE I LOOK, PEOPLE ARE SPORTING "FIFTH DIMENSION" ATTIRE...
...AND I'D SAY HE'S AFFECTED LEX LUTHOR II'S BUSINESS AS WELL!
THAT "X" MARKS THE SPOT WHERE THE LEXCORP BUILDING USED TO STAND.
WAIT--WAIT--THIS WAS ALL MINE...


YEAH, SURE, YOU OLD COOT!
'SIDES, EVERYONE KNOWS THIS IS THE MXCORP BUILDING!
IT USED TO BE ALL MINE, YOU DOLTS-- YOU WORKED FOR ME!
OOOF
IT'S A TALL LIE!
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO REMEMBERS?
I WENT TO BED YOUNG, VIBRANT-- AT THE TOP OF MY GAME...
...ONLY TO WAKE UP IN THE VERITABLE GUTTER-- IN THIS, MY OLD BODY!
IT'S ALL A LIE!
MXYZPTLK WILL PAY OR MY NAME ISN'T--
LEX LUTHOR! STILL PEDDLING THAT HOG-WASH?
BOOM!
THAT CAME FROM MXCORP TOWER!
IT'S ALL A LIE!
HEE HEE
WATCH DAT T'ING, BALDY!
XCORP
PLEASE-- SOMEONE! THOSE PEOPLE WERE CAUGHT IN THE BLAST!
EVERYTHING'S A LITTLE TOPSY-TURVY, BUT I CAN'T IGNORE A CRY FOR HELP!


WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM, MXYMAN!
=GROAN= "MXYMAN"?
HE'LL NEED PULMONARY RESUSCITATION, PAL.
METROPOLIS AMBULANCE
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN DO WITH A LITTLE SUPER-BREATH, TO HELP THE FIREMEN!
YOU'RE ALWAYS HERE WHEN WE NEED YOU, MXYMAN! THANKS!
AHH, YES, OLD CHAP-- AND MAY I ADD YOU'RE LOOKING SIMPLY MAHVELOUS, AS WELL?
WHAT? NO SLOW-MOTION SHOT OF US RUNNING TOWARD EACH OTHER, TO EMBRACE AFTER BEING APART FOR SO LONG? IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS, AND NOT EVEN A "HELLO, HOWARE-YOU?" GIRLS, THIS GUY CRACKS ME UP!
THOSE ARE YOUR COLORS-- THEY BRING OUT YOUR EYES.
CAN IT, IMP--WHAT'S YOUR GAME THIS TIME?
YOU COULD MAYBE SHAKE HANDS.
I DON'T THINK SO.
WHAT'LL IT TAKE TO PUT THINGS RIGHT, MXYZPTLK?

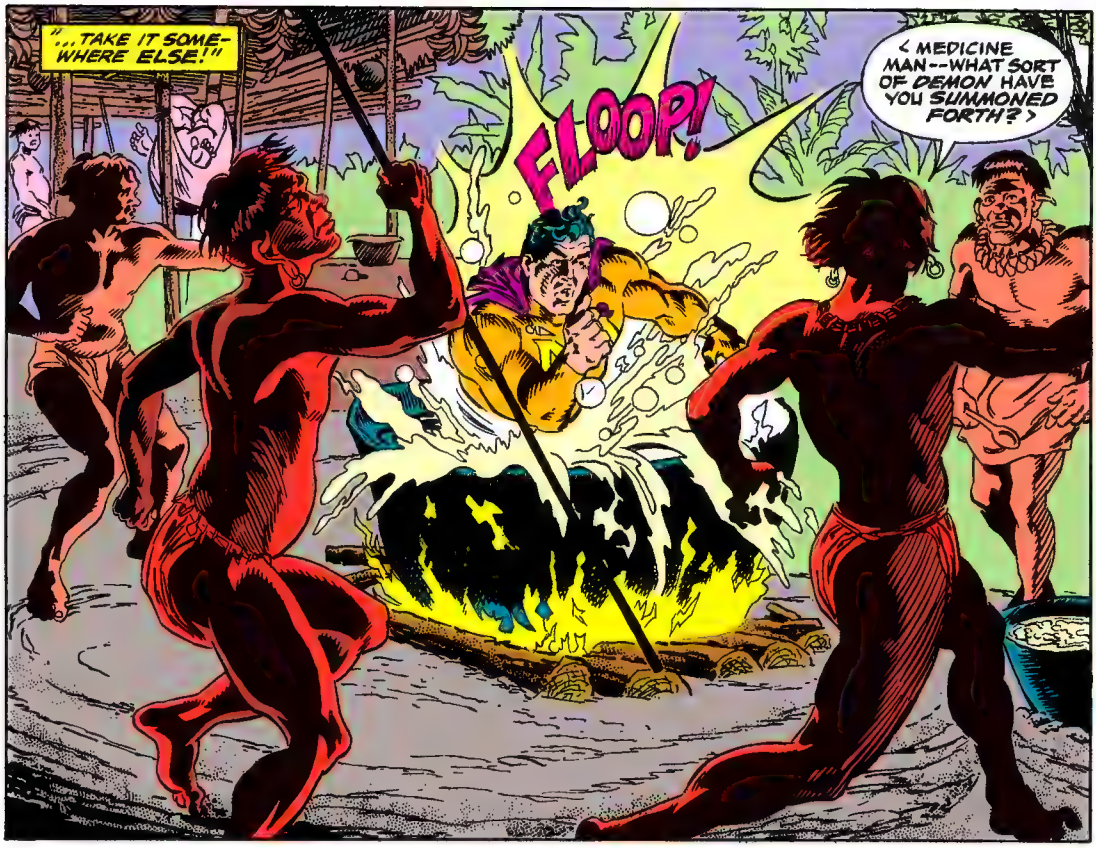
I REMEMBER HOW THIS WORKS--YOU SET THE RULES.
IF I CAN SOMEHOW GET YOU TO DO SOMETHING YOU COME UP WITH, YOU'LL VOLUNTARILY RETURN TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION!
YOU READING OFF OF CUE CARDS OR WHAT??
OKAY, OKAY... HERE'S THE CHALLENGE--GET MY GUARDS TO SPELL "MXCORD" BACKWARDS, AND I'LL OBLIGE YOU!
'COURSE, THESE BOYS ARE ALL MUTE!
TEE HEE
THANKS FOR TELLING ME!
HOLD TIGHT, FELLOWS...
...IT'S BOUND TO BE A BUMPY RIDE!
SUCH PANACHE...
BRA-VO, SUPEY!

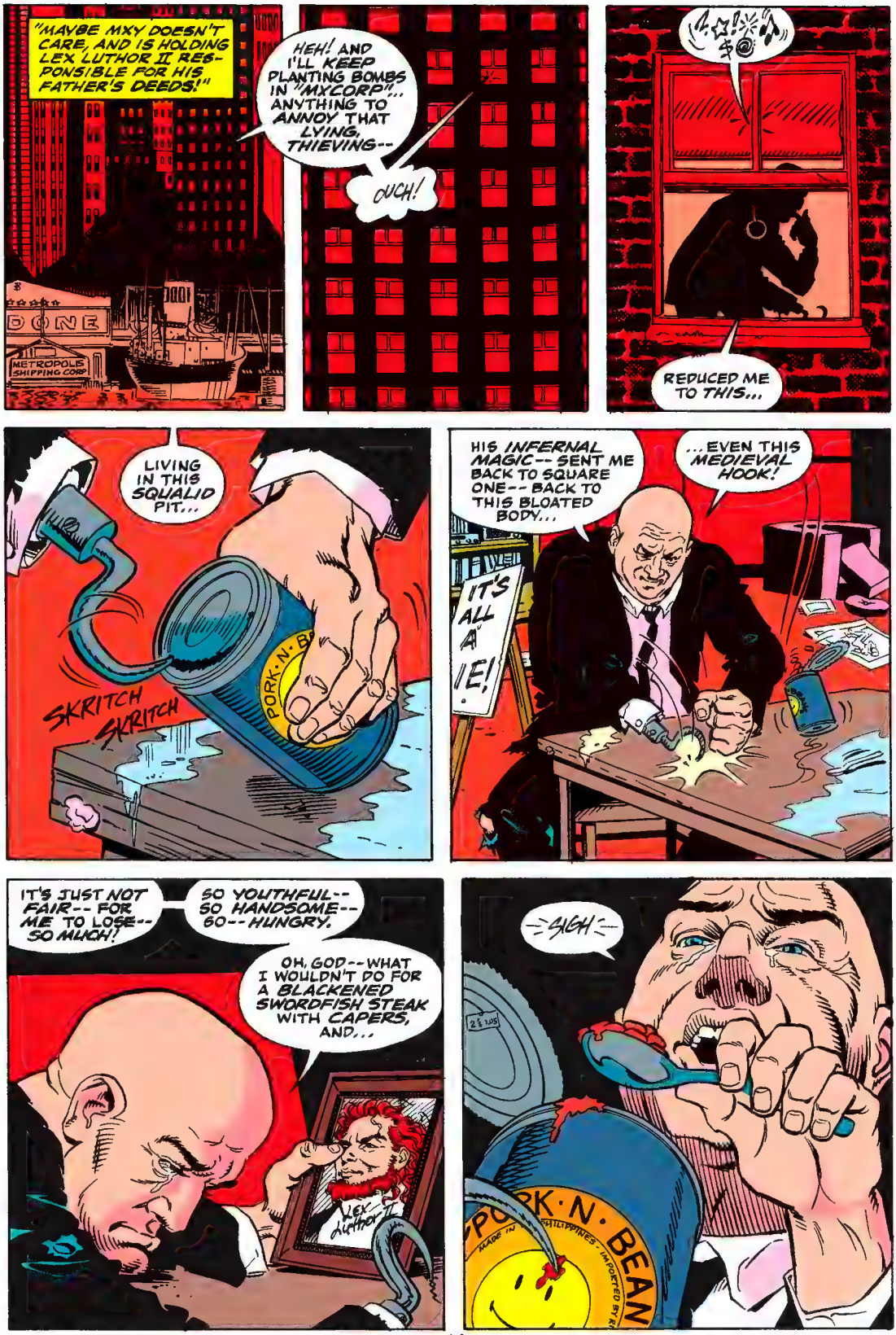

WELL? THERE IT IS-- READ IT AND WEEP!
I KNOW I'M NOT THE ONLY PERSON WHO'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU GO BACK TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION, MXY.
HMMM...
"TWISTER" WENT OUT OF VOGUE YEARS AGO, SUPER-DUPE. I DARE SAY THIS WAS =YAWN= BORING!
YOU SET THE RULES-- YOU GAVE YOUR WORD...
...SO LEAVE ALREADY!
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING.
DON'T YOU GET IT? THAT WAS--
TA-DA--
MY FIRST LIE!


I GUESS THE MORE YOU DO IT, THE LESS AWKWARD IT FEELS WHEN YOU GET CAUGHT, EH?
YOU LIED? HOW IN THE WORLD DO I GET RID OF YOU NOW?
MXCORP
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO APPLY YOURSELF MORE!
QUIT LOOKING AT ME IN THAT GLAZED, PUPPY-DOG WAY-- YOUR BUDDY LEX LUTHOR TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF LYING!*
*YES, IT HAPPENED WAY BACK IN SUPERMAN #31
Y'KNOW...
...YOU AND LEXY ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO REMEMBER THE WAY THINGS WERE BEFORE I ALTERED HISTORY!
I THOUGHT YOU'D BOTH APPRECIATE THE HUMOR IN IT ALL...

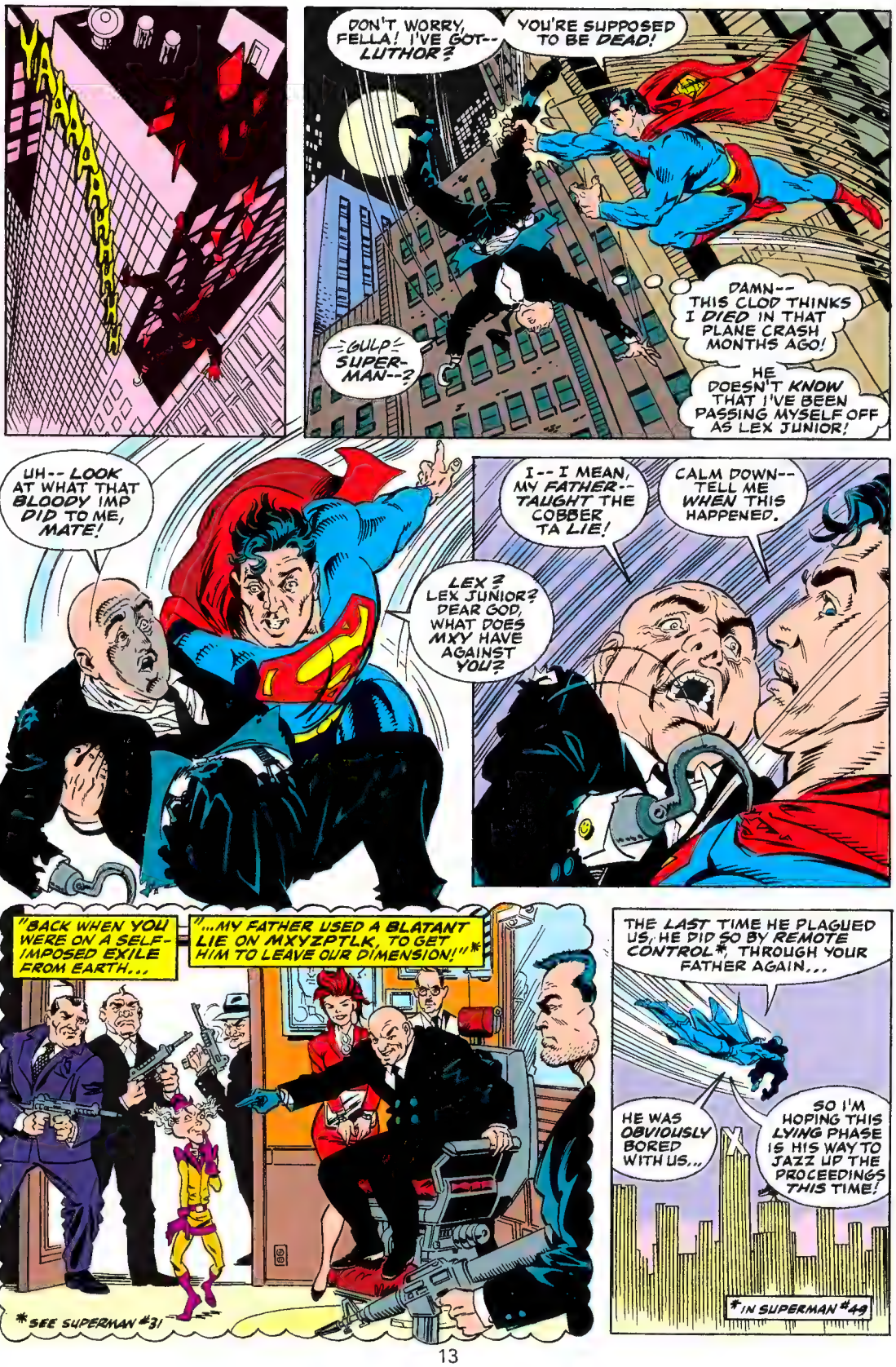
...BUT I WAS WRONG ABOUT LUTHOR!
YOU BOYS GO AND TAKE CARE OF THAT PATHETIC PUDGE!
NOW HOLD--

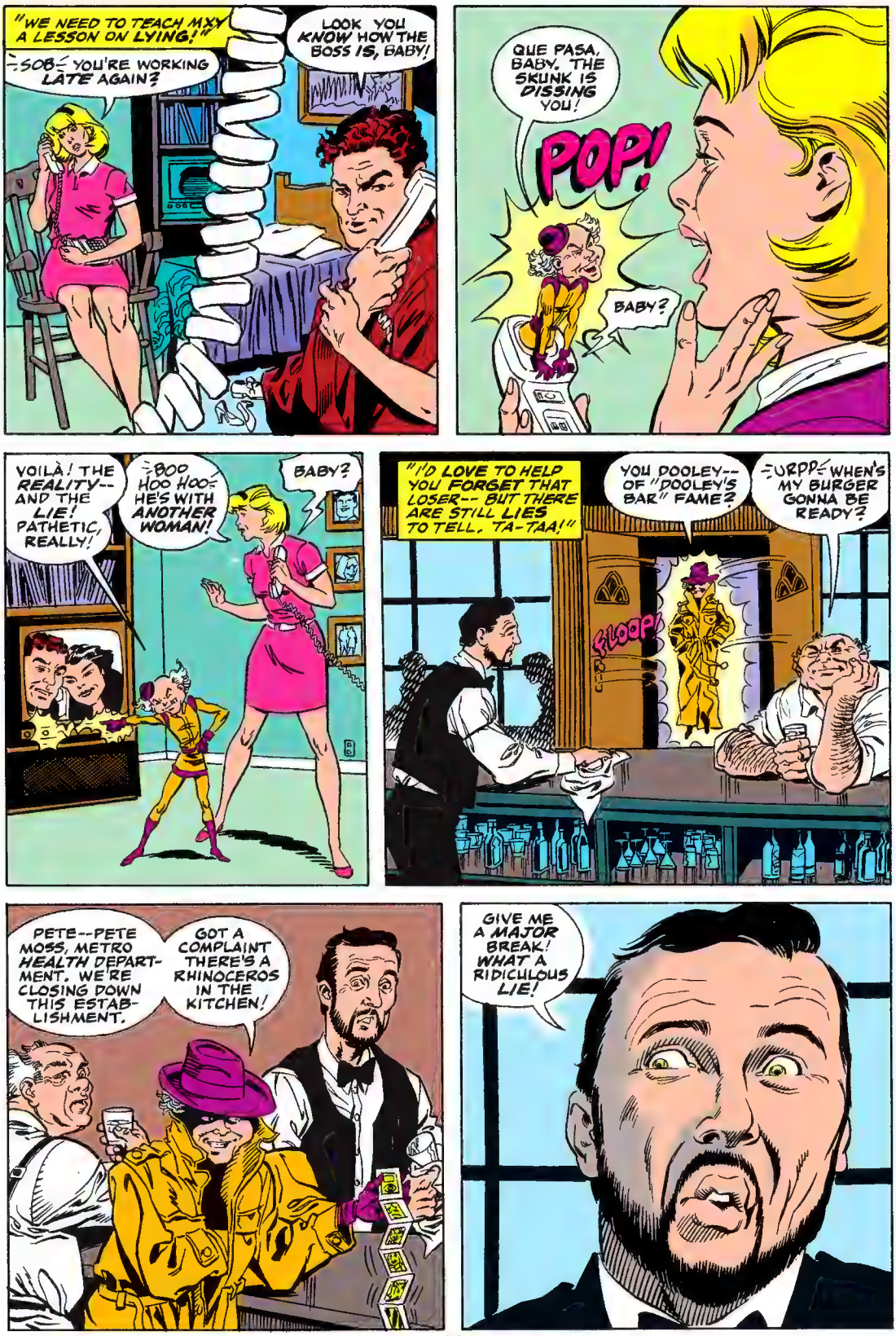
SNAP!
--ON!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO STEW OVER THIS BUSINESS, SUPEY...

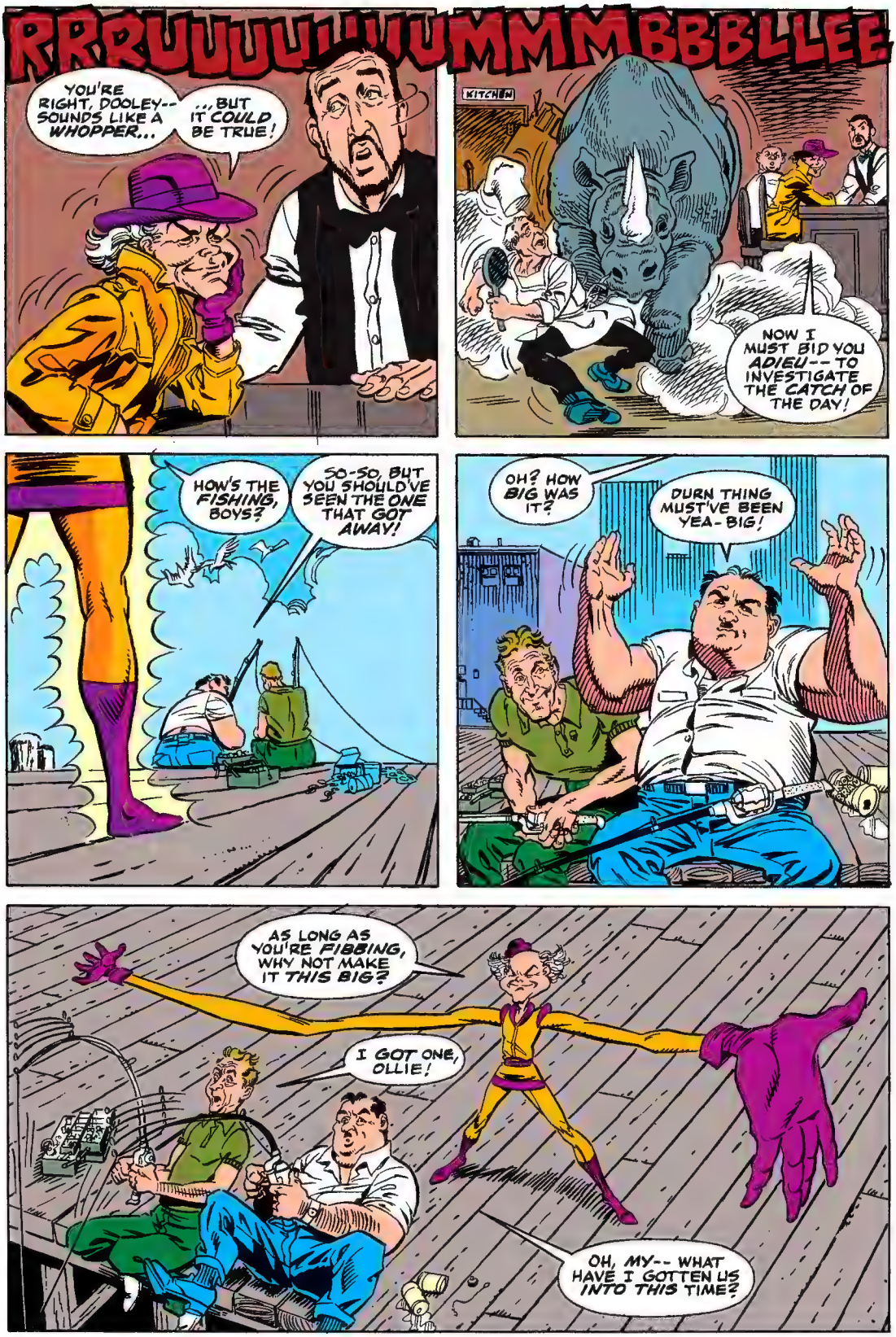

"...TAKE IT SOMEWHERE ELSE!"
FLOOP!
< MEDICINE MAN--WHAT SORT OF DEMON HAVE YOU SUMMONED FORTH? >
MXY'S "PSEUDO-MAGIC" IS SO POWERFUL THAT THE ONLY WAY I HAD TO FIGHT HIM WAS BY USING MY WITS...
...BUT THAT DEPENDED ON HIM HONORING HIS AGREEMENT TO LEAVE THIS DIMENSION IF I BESTED HIM...
NOW HE CAN'T BE TRUSTED TO KEEP HIS WORD!
AND HOW DOES LEX JUNIOR FIGURE IN THIS? MXY HAD TO BE REFERRING TO HIM, SINCE LEX SENIOR IS LONG DEAD!

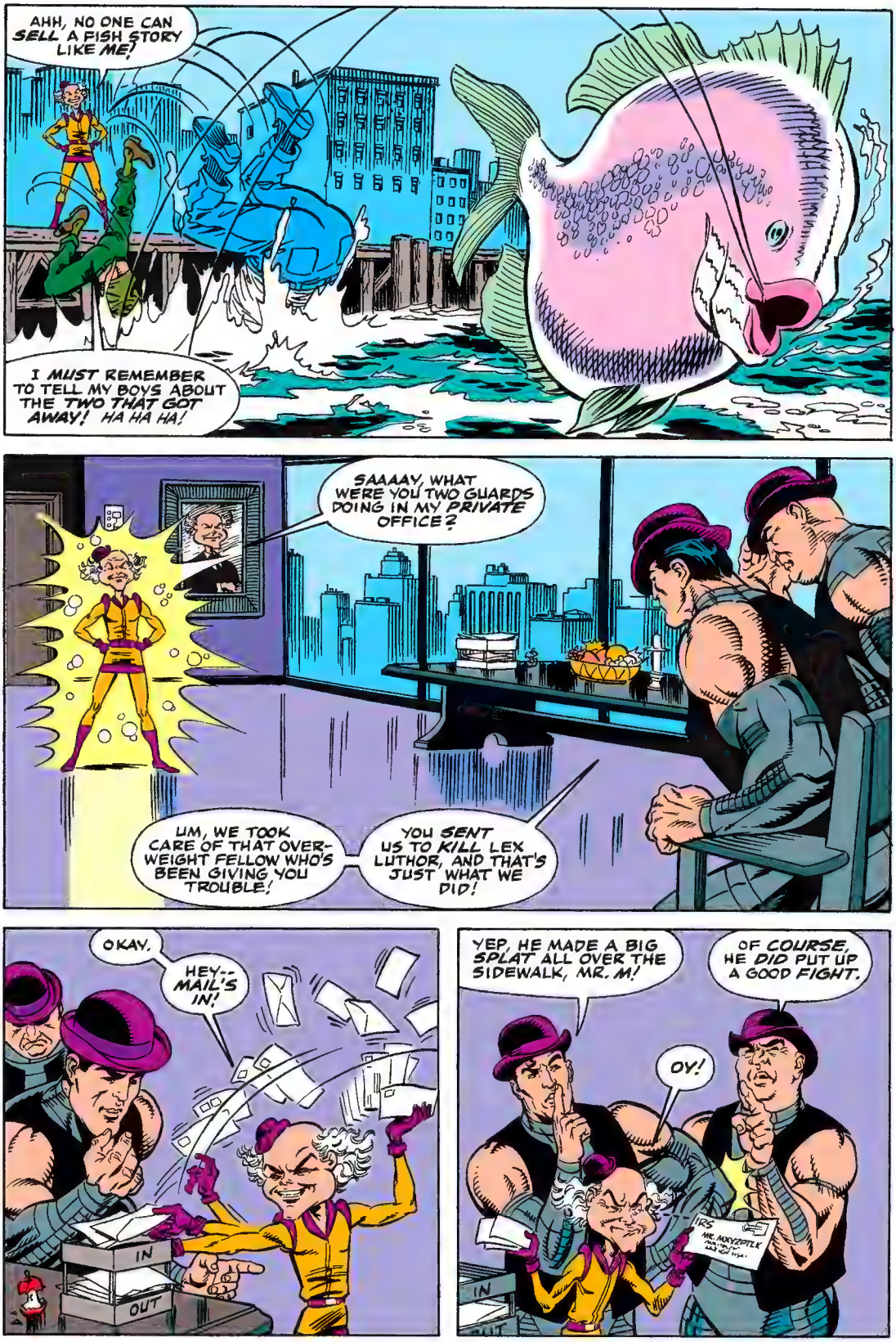

"MAYBE MXY DOESN'T CARE, AND IS HOLDING LEX LUTHOR II RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS FATHER'S DEEDS!"
DONE
METROPOLIS SHIPPING CORP
HEH! AND I'LL KEEP PLANTING BOMBS IN "MXCORP"... ANYTHING TO ANNOY THAT LYING, THIEVING--
OUCH!
REDUCED ME TO THIS...
LIVING IN THIS SQUALID PIT...
SKRITCH SKRITCH
PORK·N·BEANS
HIS INFERNAL MAGIC -- SENT ME BACK TO SQUARE ONE -- BACK TO THIS BLOATED BODY...
...EVEN THIS MEDIEVAL HOOK!
IT'S ALL A LIE!
IT'S JUST NOT FAIR -- FOR ME TO LOSE -- SO MUCH!
SO YOUTHFUL -- SO HANDSOME -- SO -- HUNGRY.
OH, GOD -- WHAT I WOULDN'T DO FOR A BLACKENED SWORDFISH STEAK WITH CAPERS, AND...
LEX LUTHOR II
SIGH
PORK·N·BEANS

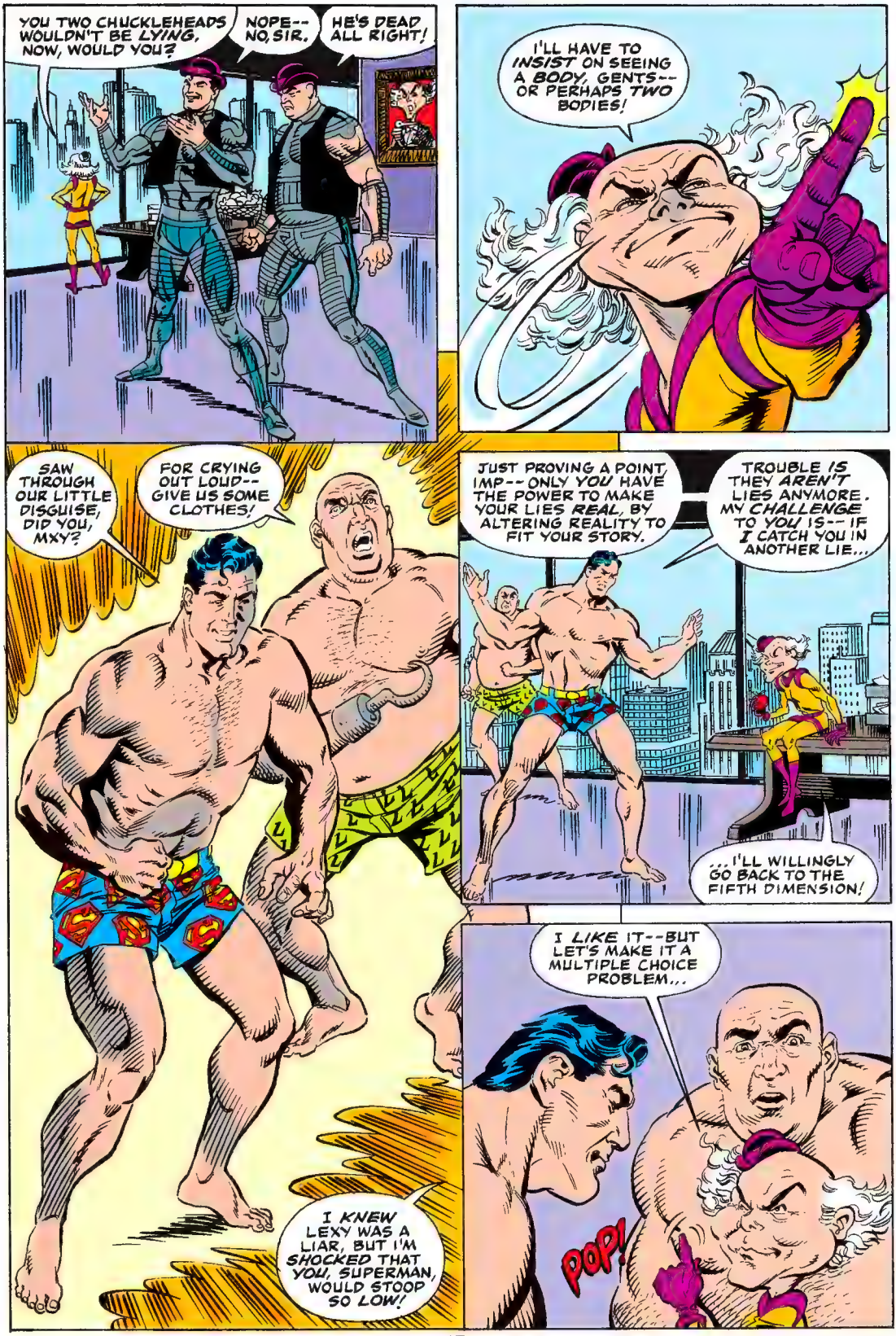
PORK·N·BEANS
MADE IN THE PHILIPPINES · IMPORTED BY RIVERA LTD.
CRUNCHY STYLE
NET WT. 16 OZ.
=SOB= CRUNCH CRUNCH
=GULP= I'VE BEEN DOWN BEFORE-- AND I'VE COME BACK...
...I'LL DO IT AGAIN-- STRONGER THAN EVER-- ONLY I'M SO-- TIRED...
...SO VERY TIRED. YES, SIR-- FIRST THING TOMORROW-- AFTER I SLEEP...
IT'S ALL A LIE!
BOOM!
EH?
KRAK
LEX LUTHOR-- YOU'VE BEEN CAUSING THE BOSS A LOT OF TROUBLE!
IT'S ALL A LIE
OOF!
WAIT-- YOU USED TO--WORK FOR ME--STOP THIS...
...I'LL GIVE YOU --MONEY-- MAKE YOU RICH...
WHAT'RE YOU--A COMEDIAN ?
CRAAASH!

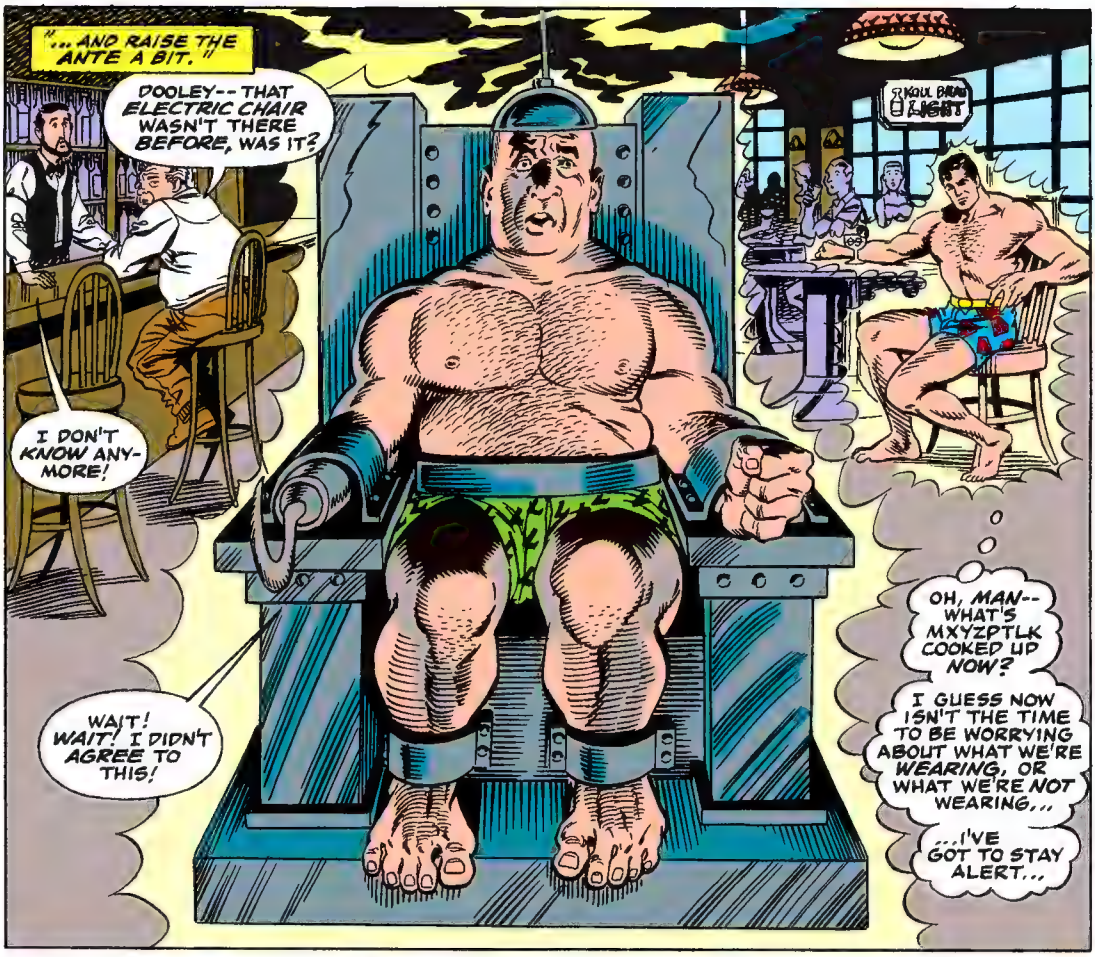

YAAAAARRRGH!
DON'T WORRY, FELLA! I'VE GOT-- LUTHOR?
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD!
GULP! SUPER-MAN--?
DAMN-- THIS CLOD THINKS I DIED IN THAT PLANE CRASH MONTHS AGO!
HE DOESN'T KNOW THAT I'VE BEEN PASSING MYSELF OFF AS LEX JUNIOR!
UH-- LOOK AT WHAT THAT BLOODY IMP DID TO ME, MATE!
LEX? LEX JUNIOR? DEAR GOD, WHAT DOES MXY HAVE AGAINST YOU?
I-- I MEAN, MY FATHER-- TAUGHT THE COBBER TA LIE!
CALM DOWN-- TELL ME WHEN THIS HAPPENED.
"BACK WHEN YOU WERE ON A SELF-IMPOSED EXILE FROM EARTH...
"...MY FATHER USED A BLATANT LIE ON MXYZPTLK, TO GET HIM TO LEAVE OUR DIMENSION!"*
*SEE SUPERMAN #31
THE LAST TIME HE PLAGUED US, HE DID SO BY REMOTE CONTROL*, THROUGH YOUR FATHER AGAIN...
HE WAS OBVIOUSLY BORED WITH US...
SO I'M HOPING THIS LYING PHASE IS HIS WAY TO JAZZ UP THE PROCEEDINGS THIS TIME!
*IN SUPERMAN #49


"WE NEED TO TEACH MXY A LESSON ON LYING!"
LOOK YOU KNOW HOW THE BOSS IS, BABY!
-SOB- YOU'RE WORKING LATE AGAIN?
QUE PASA, BABY. THE SKUNK IS DISSING YOU!
POP!
BABY?
VOILÀ! THE REALITY-- AND THE LIE! PATHETIC, REALLY!
-BOO HOO HOO- HE'S WITH ANOTHER WOMAN!
BABY?
"I'D LOVE TO HELP YOU FORGET THAT LOSER-- BUT THERE ARE STILL LIES TO TELL. TA-TAA!"
YOU DOOLEY-- OF "DOOLEY'S BAR" FAME?
-URPP- WHEN'S MY BURGER GONNA BE READY?
SLOOP!
PETE--PETE MOSS, METRO HEALTH DEPARTMENT. WE'RE CLOSING DOWN THIS ESTABLISHMENT.
GOT A COMPLAINT THERE'S A RHINOCEROS IN THE KITCHEN!
GIVE ME A MAJOR BREAK! WHAT A RIDICULOUS LIE!


RRRUUUUUUUMMMBBBLLEE
YOU'RE RIGHT, DOOLEY-- SOUNDS LIKE A WHOPPER...
..., BUT IT COULD BE TRUE!
KITCHEN
NOW I MUST BID YOU ADIEU--- TO INVESTIGATE THE CATCH OF THE DAY!
HOW'S THE FISHING, BOYS?
SO-SO, BUT YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY!
OH? HOW BIG WAS IT?
DURN THING MUST'VE BEEN YEA-BIG!
AS LONG AS YOU'RE FIBBING, WHY NOT MAKE IT THIS BIG?
I GOT ONE, OLLIE!
OH, MY-- WHAT HAVE I GOTTEN US INTO THIS TIME?


AHH, NO ONE CAN SELL A FISH STORY LIKE ME!
I MUST REMEMBER TO TELL MY BOYS ABOUT THE TWO THAT GOT AWAY! HA HA HA!
SAAAAY, WHAT WERE YOU TWO GUARDS DOING IN MY PRIVATE OFFICE?
UM, WE TOOK CARE OF THAT OVER-WEIGHT FELLOW WHO'S BEEN GIVING YOU TROUBLE!
YOU SENT US TO KILL LEX LUTHOR, AND THAT'S JUST WHAT WE DID!
OKAY.
HEY-- MAIL'S IN!
IN
OUT
YEP, HE MADE A BIG SPLAT ALL OVER THE SIDEWALK, MR. M!
OF COURSE, HE DID PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT.
OY!
IRS
IN

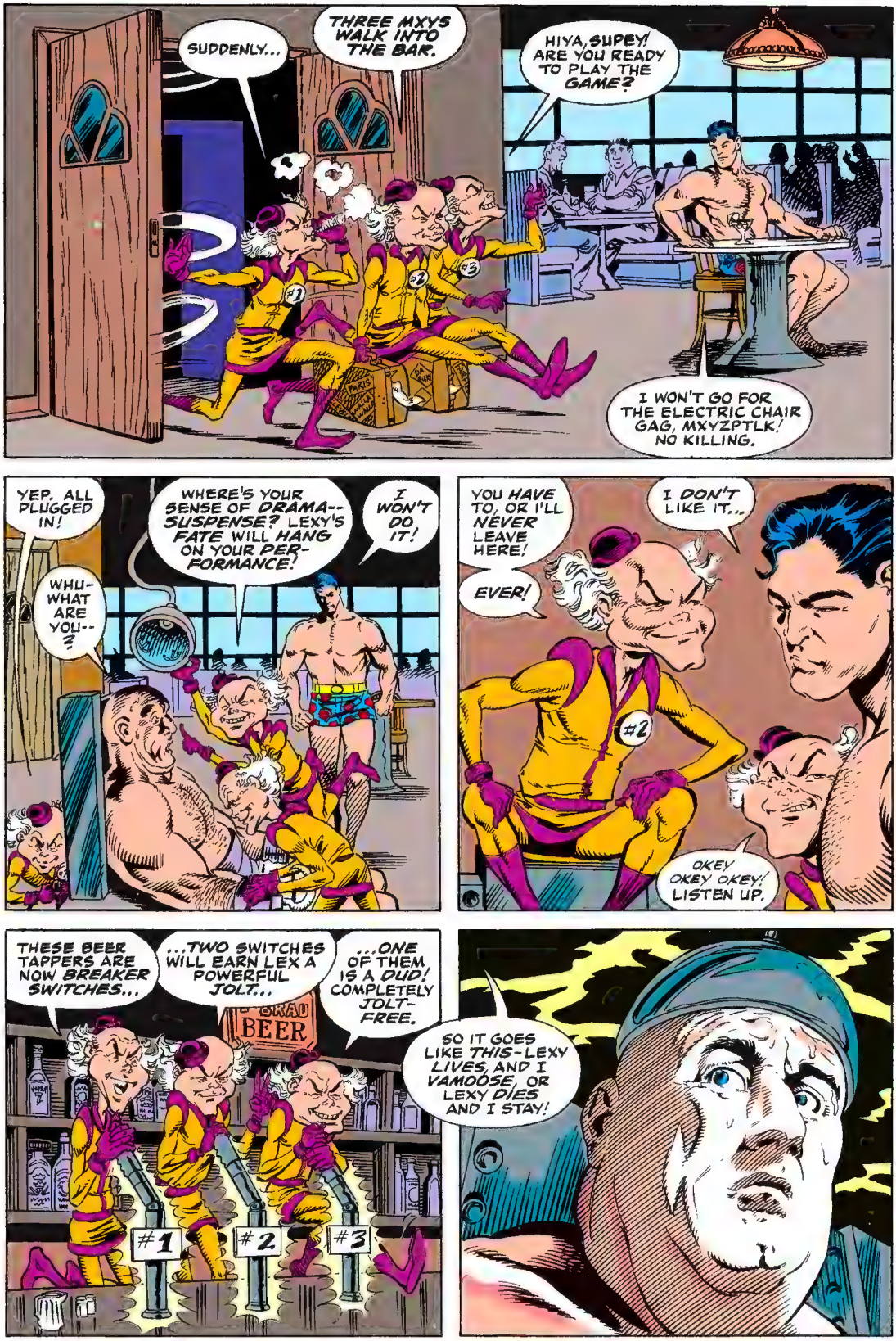

YOU TWO CHUCKLEHEADS WOULDN'T BE LYING, NOW, WOULD YOU?
NOPE-- NO, SIR.
HE'S DEAD ALL RIGHT!
I'LL HAVE TO INSIST ON SEEING A BODY, GENTS-- OR PERHAPS TWO BODIES!
SAW THROUGH OUR LITTLE DISGUISE, DID YOU, MXY?
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD-- GIVE US SOME CLOTHES!
JUST PROVING A POINT, IMP-- ONLY YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR LIES REAL, BY ALTERING REALITY TO FIT YOUR STORY.
TROUBLE IS THEY AREN'T LIES ANYMORE. MY CHALLENGE TO YOU IS-- IF I CATCH YOU IN ANOTHER LIE...
...I'LL WILLINGLY GO BACK TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION!
I KNEW LEXY WAS A LIAR, BUT I'M SHOCKED THAT YOU, SUPERMAN, WOULD STOOP SO LOW!
I LIKE IT--BUT LET'S MAKE IT A MULTIPLE CHOICE PROBLEM...
POP!

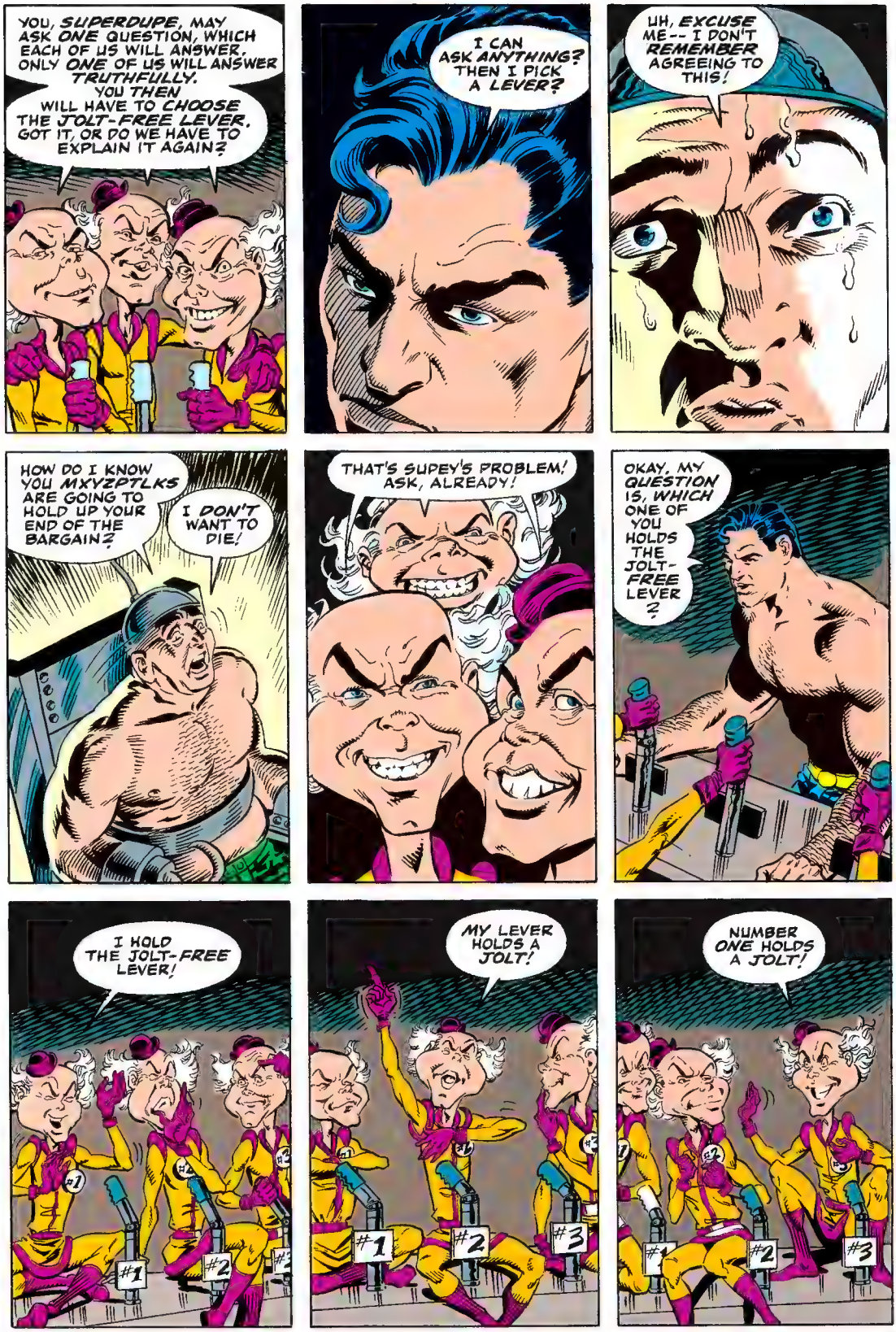

"... AND RAISE THE ANTE A BIT."
DOOLEY-- THAT ELECTRIC CHAIR WASN'T THERE BEFORE, WAS IT?
I DON'T KNOW ANY-MORE!
WAIT! WAIT! I DIDN'T AGREE TO THIS!
KOOL BRAU LIGHT
OH, MAN-- WHAT'S MXYZPTLK COOKED UP NOW?
I GUESS NOW ISN'T THE TIME TO BE WORRYING ABOUT WHAT WE'RE WEARING, OR WHAT WE'RE NOT WEARING,,,
...I'VE GOT TO STAY ALERT...

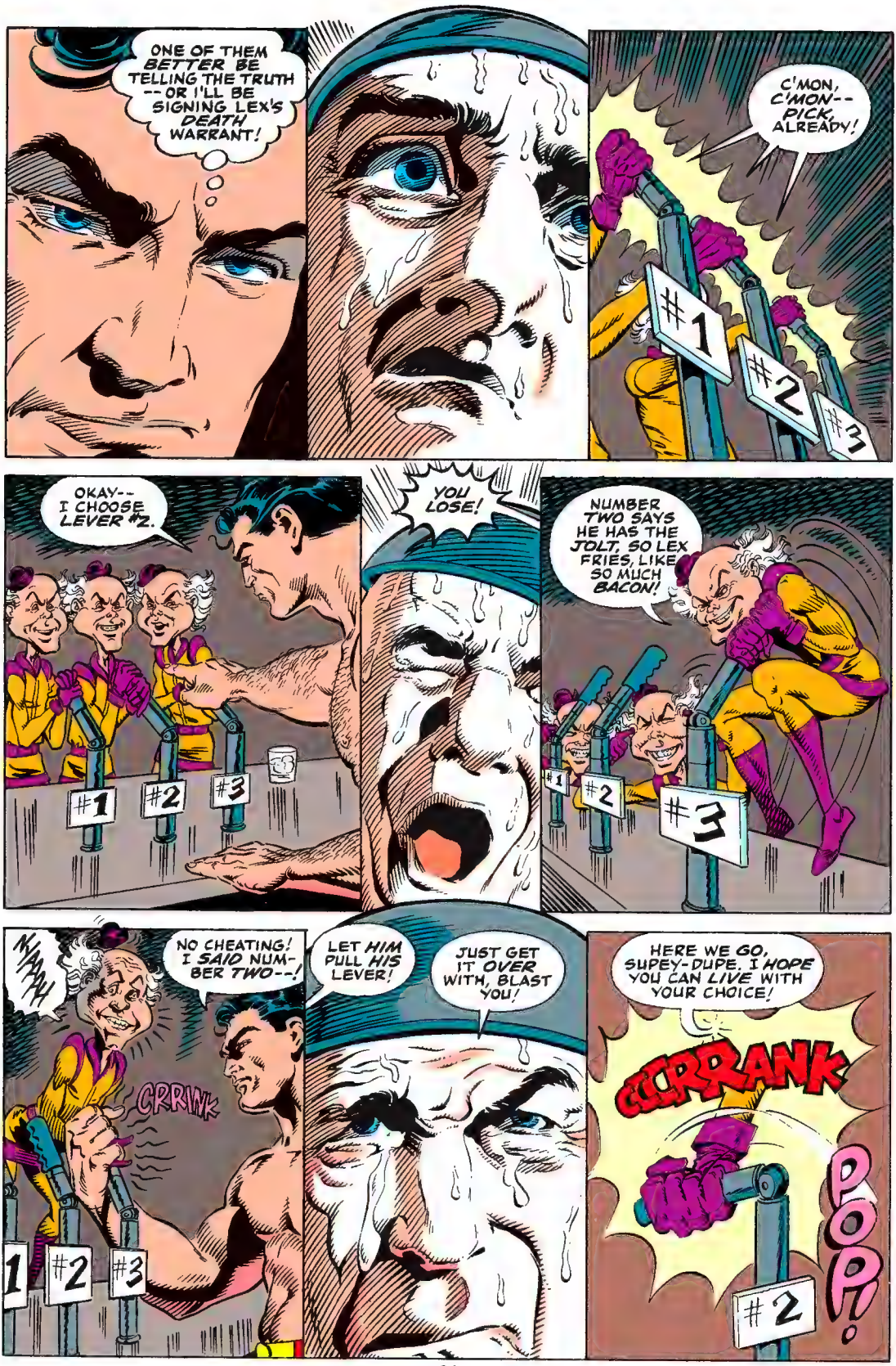
?

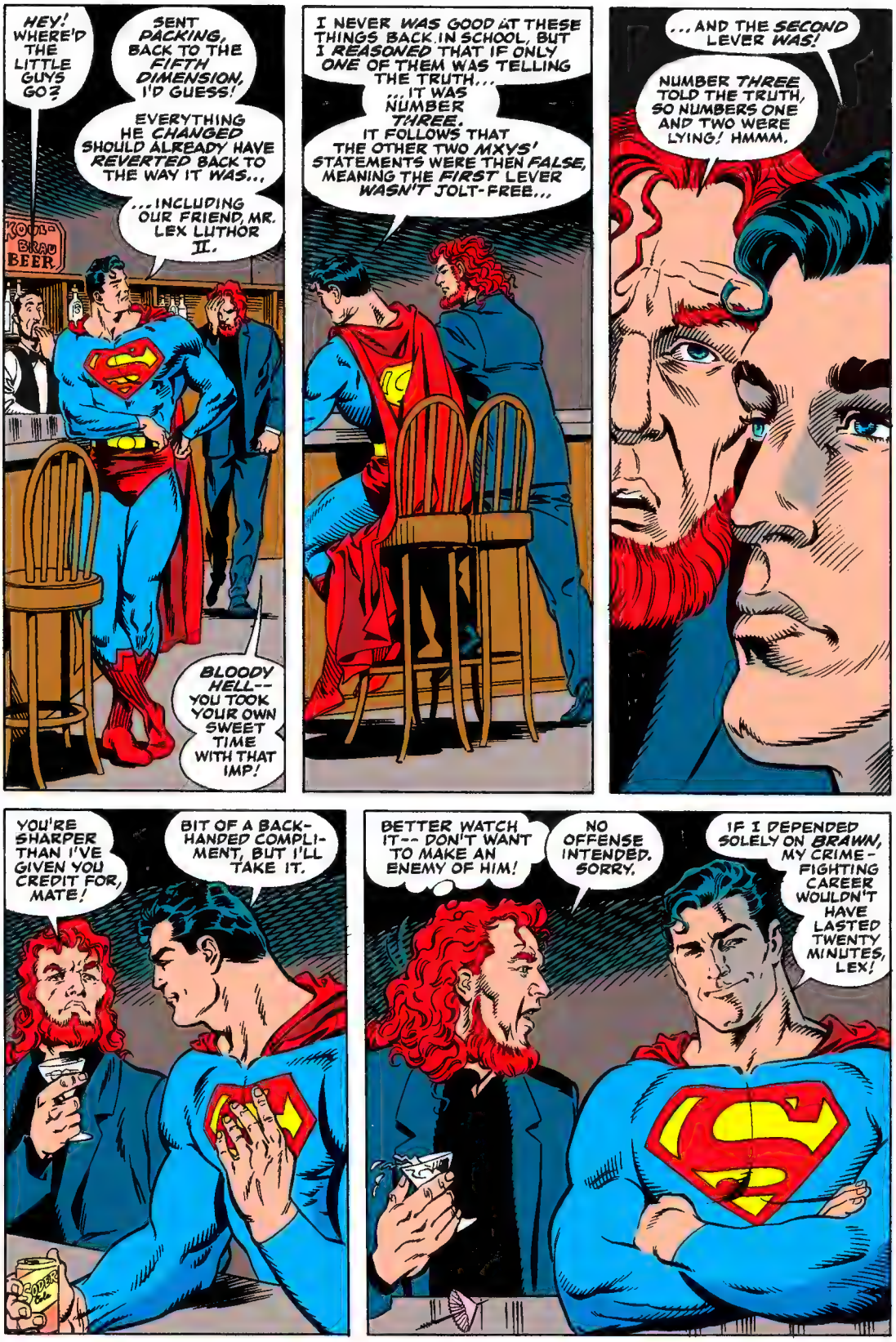
!

...AND FIGURE OUT HOW TO SEND HIM PACKING, BACK WHERE HE CAME FROM!


SUDDENLY...
THREE MXYS WALK INTO THE BAR.
HIYA, SUPEY! ARE YOU READY TO PLAY THE GAME?
I WON'T GO FOR THE ELECTRIC CHAIR GAG, MXYZPTLK! NO KILLING.
#1
#2
#3
YEP. ALL PLUGGED IN!
WHU-WHAT ARE YOU--?
WHERE'S YOUR SENSE OF DRAMA--SUSPENSE? LEXY'S FATE WILL HANG ON YOUR PERFORMANCE!
I WON'T DO IT!
YOU HAVE TO, OR I'LL NEVER LEAVE HERE!
EVER!
I DON'T LIKE IT...
OKEY OKEY OKEY! LISTEN UP.
THESE BEER TAPPERS ARE NOW BREAKER SWITCHES...
...TWO SWITCHES WILL EARN LEX A POWERFUL JOLT...
...ONE OF THEM IS A DUD! COMPLETELY JOLT-FREE.
BEER
#1
#2
#3
SO IT GOES LIKE THIS-LEXY LIVES, AND I VAMOOSE, OR LEXY DIES AND I STAY!


YOU, SUPERDUPE, MAY ASK ONE QUESTION, WHICH EACH OF US WILL ANSWER. ONLY ONE OF US WILL ANSWER TRUTHFULLY. YOU THEN WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE THE JOLT-FREE LEVER. GOT IT, OR DO WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN IT AGAIN?
I CAN ASK ANYTHING? THEN I PICK A LEVER?
UH, EXCUSE ME-- I DON'T REMEMBER AGREEING TO THIS!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU MXYZPTLKS ARE GOING TO HOLD UP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN?
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
THAT'S SUPEY'S PROBLEM! ASK, ALREADY!
OKAY, MY QUESTION IS, WHICH ONE OF YOU HOLDS THE JOLT-FREE LEVER?
I HOLD THE JOLT-FREE LEVER!
MY LEVER HOLDS A JOLT!
NUMBER ONE HOLDS A JOLT!
#1
#2
#3


ONE OF THEM BETTER BE TELLING THE TRUTH -- OR I'LL BE SIGNING LEX'S DEATH WARRANT!
C'MON, C'MON-- PICK, ALREADY!
#1
#2
#3
OKAY-- I CHOOSE LEVER #2.
#1
#2
#3
YOU LOSE!
NUMBER TWO SAYS HE HAS THE JOLT, SO LEX FRIES, LIKE SO MUCH BACON!
#1
#2
#3
WAAAH!
NO CHEATING! I SAID NUMBER TWO--!
CRRIK
1
#2
#3
LET HIM PULL HIS LEVER!
JUST GET IT OVER WITH, BLAST YOU!
HERE WE GO, SUPEY-DUPE. I HOPE YOU CAN LIVE WITH YOUR CHOICE!
CLRRANK
POP!
#2


HEY! WHERE'D THE LITTLE GUYS GO?
SENT PACKING, BACK TO THE FIFTH DIMENSION, I'D GUESS!
EVERYTHING HE CHANGED SHOULD ALREADY HAVE REVERTED BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS...
...INCLUDING OUR FRIEND, MR. LEX LUTHOR II.
KOOL BRAU BEER
BLOODY HELL-- YOU TOOK YOUR OWN SWEET TIME WITH THAT IMP!
I NEVER WAS GOOD AT THESE THINGS BACK IN SCHOOL, BUT I REASONED THAT IF ONLY ONE OF THEM WAS TELLING THE TRUTH... ...IT WAS NUMBER THREE.
IT FOLLOWS THAT THE OTHER TWO MXYS' STATEMENTS WERE THEN FALSE, MEANING THE FIRST LEVER WASN'T JOLT-FREE...
...AND THE SECOND LEVER WAS!
NUMBER THREE TOLD THE TRUTH, SO NUMBERS ONE AND TWO WERE LYING! HMMM.
YOU'RE SHARPER THAN I'VE GIVEN YOU CREDIT FOR, MATE!
BIT OF A BACK-HANDED COMPLIMENT, BUT I'LL TAKE IT.
COOPER Cola
BETTER WATCH IT-- DON'T WANT TO MAKE AN ENEMY OF HIM!
NO OFFENSE INTENDED. SORRY.
IF I DEPENDED SOLELY ON BRAWN, MY CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER WOULDN'T HAVE LASTED TWENTY MINUTES, LEX!

SOMEWHERE ELSE...
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAAK!
...DOOMSDAY IS COMING!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIRST NIGHT.
AMASH IMPORT
SAN DIEGO, CA
TRUCK ENT
SOMETHING SHADY WAS GOING DOWN IN THAT WAREHOUSE...
...TOO MANY LOW LIFES HAD GONE INTO THE PLACE FOR IT TO BE LEGIT.
A FEW OF THOSE LOW LIFES HAD GIVEN ME GRIEF ONCE UPON A TIME.
BUT TIMES HAD CHANGED.
I HAD CHANGED.
NOW IT WAS MY TURN TO GIVE THEM GRIEF!
I COULD HEAR THEM MOVING AROUND DOWN BELOW... I COULD SMELL THEM.
I FOLLOWED MY NOSE TO A SKYLIGHT, AND THERE THEY WERE... BIG JOEY, LITTLE JOEY AND ALL THE REST.
THE CRATES THEY WERE LOADING LOOKED HEAVY... AND SMELLED OF CORDITE AND OIL AND BLUING.
GUNS.
THERE WASN'T MUCH QUESTION ABOUT HOW THEY'D BEEN OBTAINED... NOT AFTER THE BEARD OPENED HIS CASE AND SHOWED BIG JOEY THE PAYOFF.
THEIR LOOKOUT PROBABLY THOUGHT I COULDN'T HEAR HIM SNEAKING UP ON ME.
HE MUST'VE BEEN UNDER ORDERS NOT TO SHOOT.
I CAUGHT A WHIFF OF HIS SWEAT AS HE RAISED THE BUTT OF THAT RIFLE... PLANNING TO BRING IT DOWN ON MY HEAD, NO DOUBT.
THAT'S WHEN I MADE MY MOVE...

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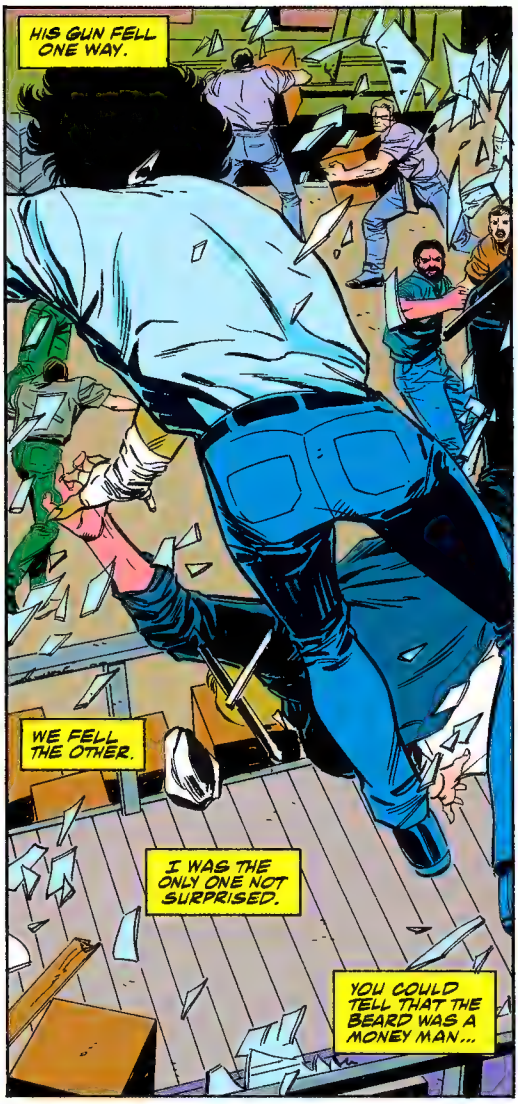
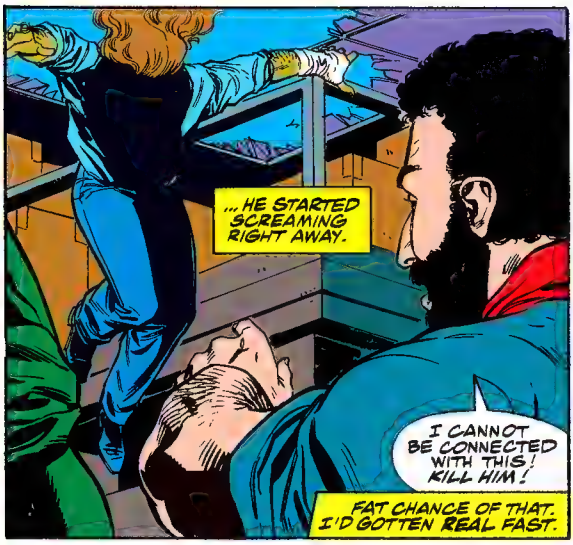
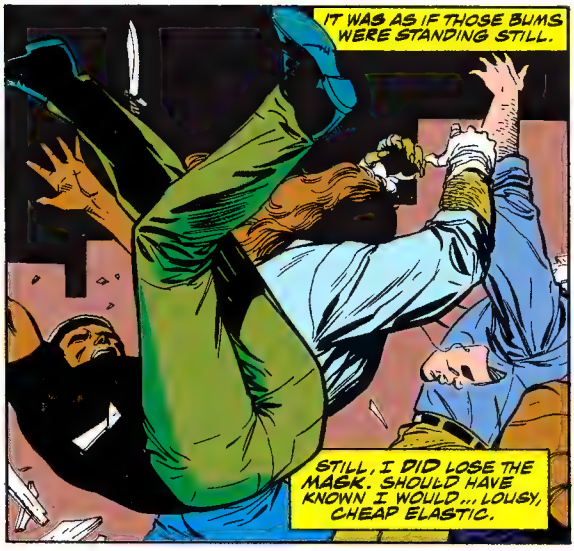
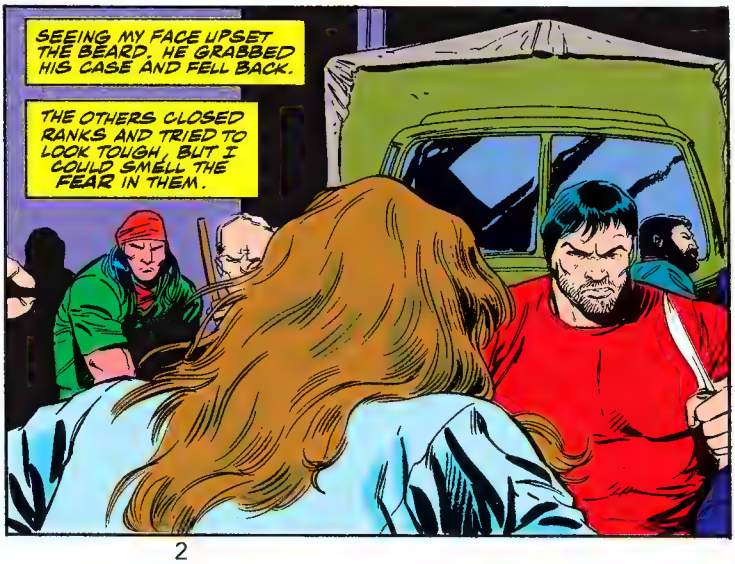

HIS GUN FELL ONE WAY.
WE FELL THE OTHER.
I WAS THE ONLY ONE NOT SURPRISED.
YOU COULD TELL THAT THE BEARD WAS A MONEY MAN...

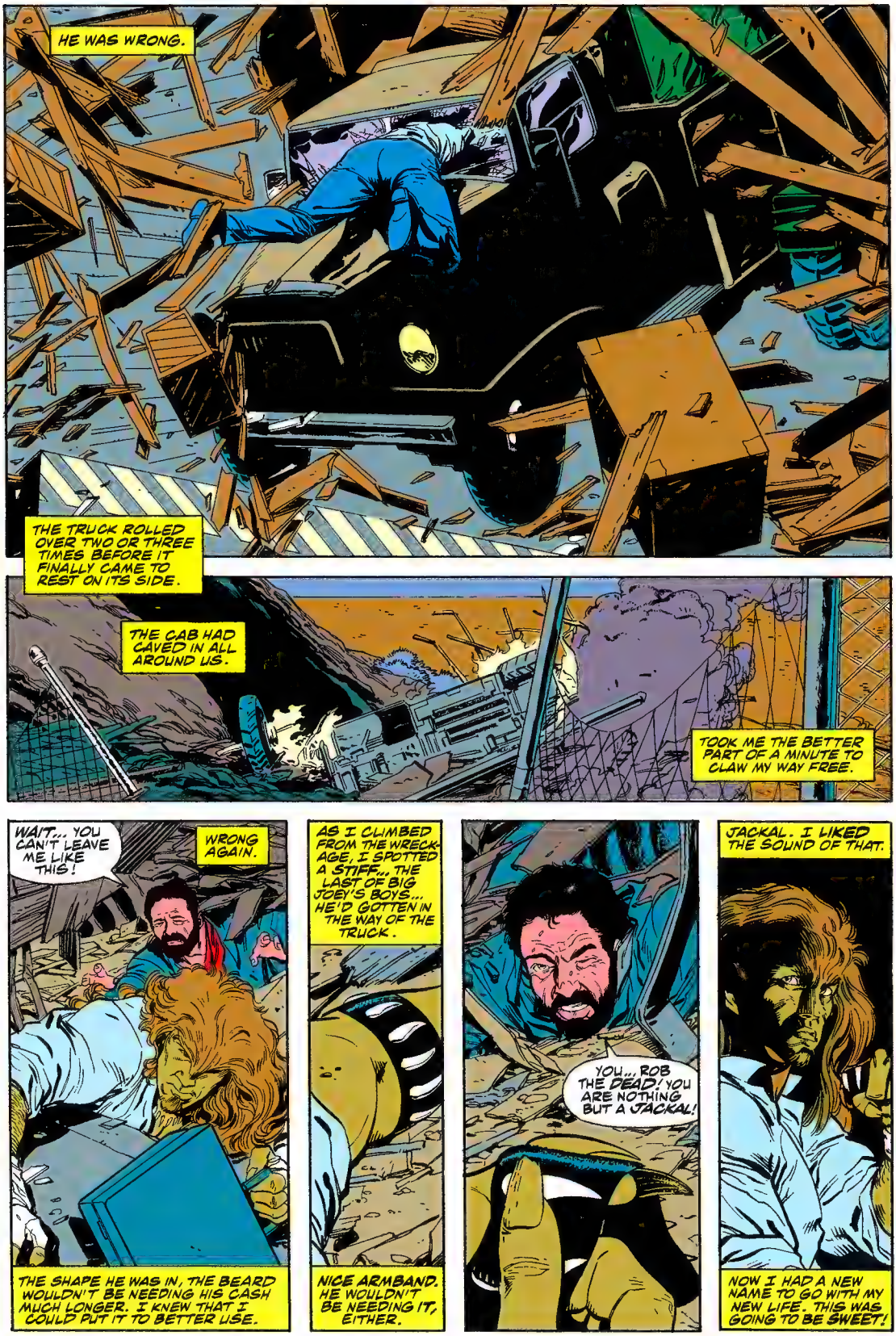

...HE STARTED SCREAMING RIGHT AWAY.
I CANNOT BE CONNECTED WITH THIS! KILL HIM!
FAT CHANCE OF THAT. I'D GOTTEN REAL FAST.


IT WAS AS IF THOSE BUMS WERE STANDING STILL.
STILL, I DID LOSE THE MASK. SHOULD HAVE KNOWN I WOULD... LOUSY, CHEAP ELASTIC.

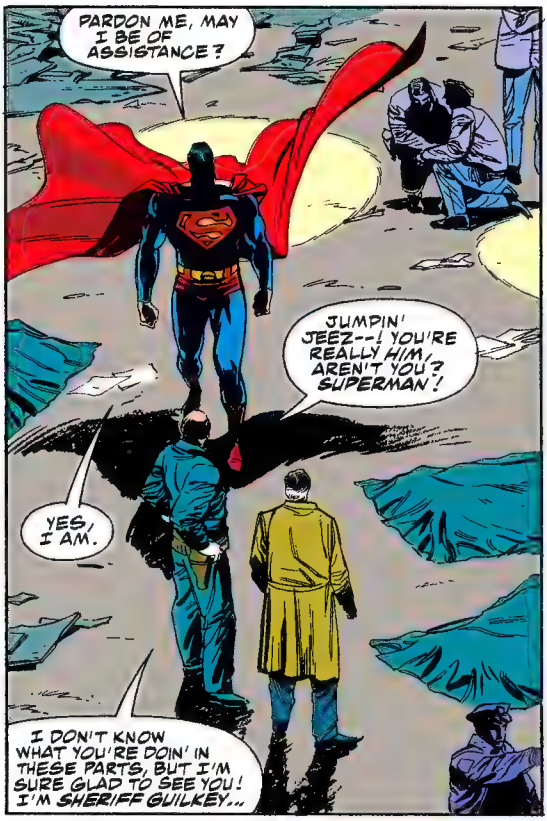
WHAT--? WHY WOULD HE WEAR ANOTHER MASK UNDER THE FIRST--?!
THAT... IS NO MASK.


SEEING MY FACE UPSET THE BEARD. HE GRABBED HIS CASE AND FELL BACK.
THE OTHERS CLOSED RANKS AND TRIED TO LOOK TOUGH, BUT I COULD SMELL THE FEAR IN THEM.

THEY'D NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE ME.
I GAVE THEM THE GRIN.
IT WASN'T PRETTY. BUT THAT WAS THE WHOLE POINT.
I HELD IT JUST LONG ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM SQUIRM.
THEN I WENT TO WORK.
I COULD FEEL THEIR BONES SNAP. IT FELT GOOD.
I WORKED FAST, BUT NOT TOO FAST. I WANTED THEM TO LINGER A LITTLE.
ONE IDIOT PULLED A GUN.
THANKS TO HIM, A FEW OF THEM BOUGHT IT FASTER THAN I'D PLANNED.
THAT REALLY HACKED ME OFF. I MADE SURE HIS END WAS SLOW AND PAINFUL.
THAT GAVE THE BEARD TIME TO FIND HIS KEYS.
FROM THE LOOK IN HIS EYES, I COULD SEE THAT HE THOUGHT HE COULD STOP ME WITH THAT TRUCK.


HE WAS WRONG.
THE TRUCK ROLLED OVER TWO OR THREE TIMES BEFORE IT FINALLY CAME TO REST ON ITS SIDE.
THE CAB HAD CAVED IN ALL AROUND US.
TOOK ME THE BETTER PART OF A MINUTE TO CLAW MY WAY FREE.
WAIT... YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME LIKE THIS!
WRONG AGAIN.
THE SHAPE HE WAS IN, THE BEARD WOULDN'T BE NEEDING HIS CASH MUCH LONGER. I KNEW THAT I COULD PUT IT TO BETTER USE.
AS I CLIMBED FROM THE WRECKAGE, I SPOTTED A STIFF... THE LAST OF BIG JOEY'S BOYS... HE'D GOTTEN IN THE WAY OF THE TRUCK.
NICE ARMBAND. HE WOULDN'T BE NEEDING IT, EITHER.
YOU... ROB THE DEAD! YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A JACKAL!
JACKAL. I LIKED THE SOUND OF THAT.
NOW I HAD A NEW NAME TO GO WITH MY NEW LIFE. THIS WAS GOING TO BE SWEET!

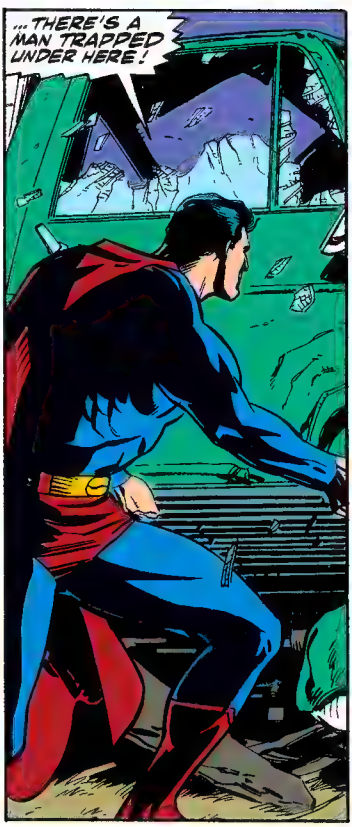
THE TRAIL OF THE JACKAL
CENTRAL OHIO, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER...
GOOD LORD... WHAT IS THIS?!
THIS IS NO SIMPLE PLANE CRASH...
...IT LOOKS MORE LIKE THE AFTERMATH OF A TERRORIST ATTACK!
ANOTHER ACTION-PACKED ADVENTURE OF
SUPERMAN
created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
... as IMAGINEERED by
ROGER STERN WRITER • JACKSON GUICE & DENIS RODIER ARTISTS
BILL OAKLEY LETTERER • GLENN WHITMORE COLORIST • JENNIFER FRANK ASSISTANT • MIKE CARLIN EDITOR

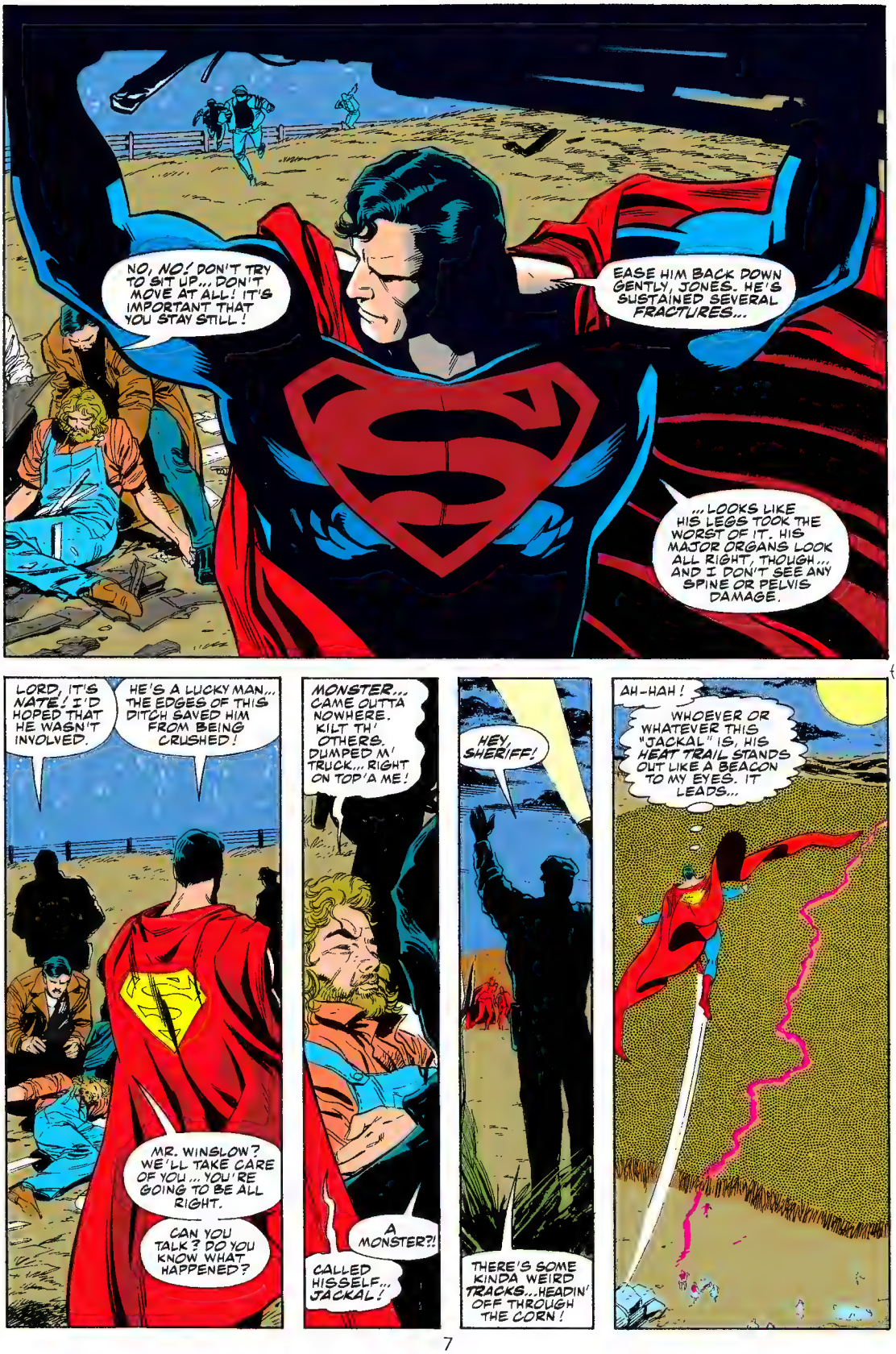

PARDON ME, MAY I BE OF ASSISTANCE?
JUMPIN' JEEZ--! YOU'RE REALLY HIM, AREN'T YOU? SUPERMAN!
YES, I AM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOIN' IN THESE PARTS, BUT I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU! I'M SHERIFF GUILKEY...

...OH, AN' THIS HERE'S DR. DARWIN JONES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.
JUST WHAT ARE THE CIRCUMSTANCES?
AN HONOR, SUPERMAN. I ONLY WISH WE COULD HAVE MET UNDER LESS GRISLY CIRCUMSTANCES.

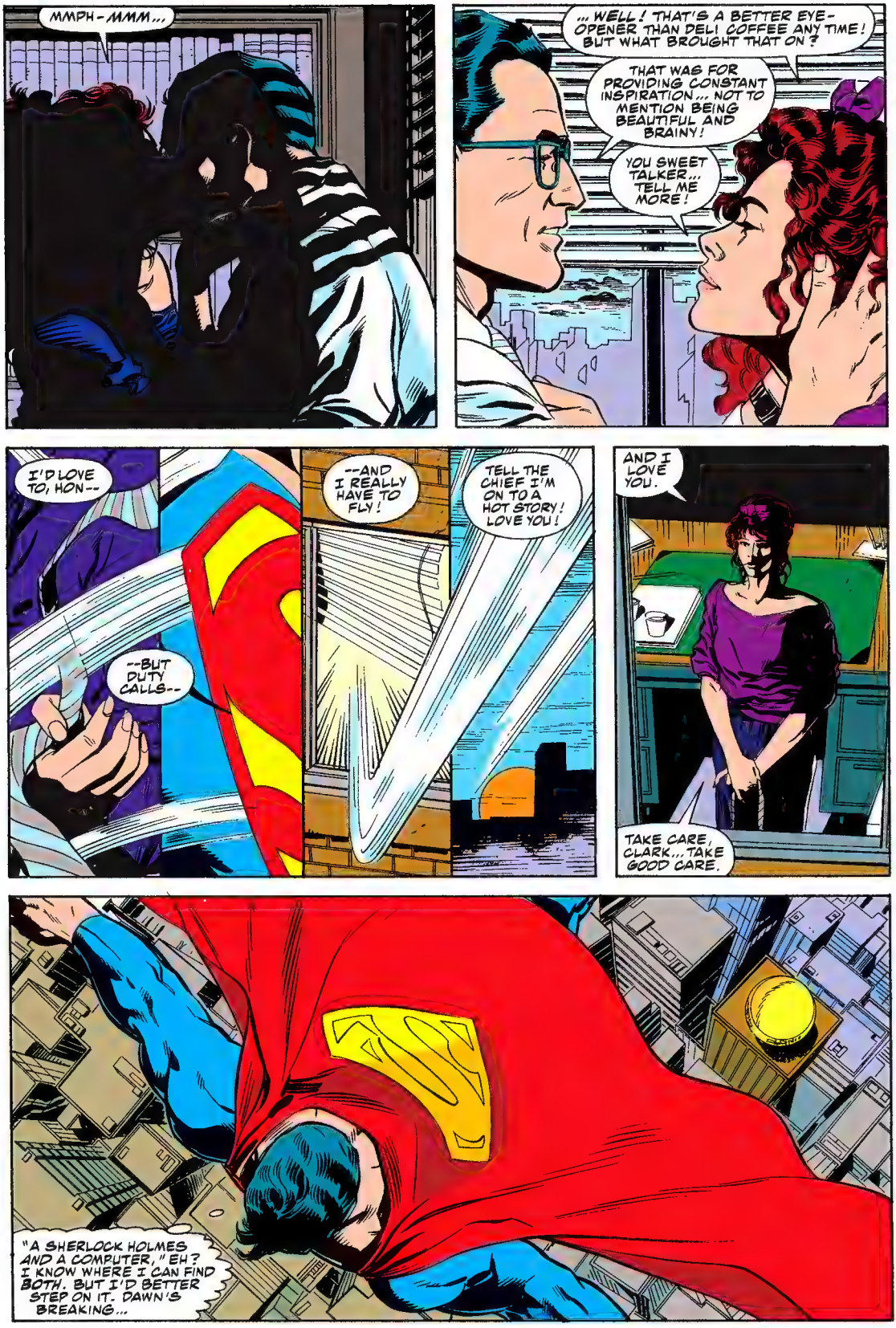
NEAR AS WE CAN RECKON, SOMEBODY WAS USIN' NATE WINSLOW'S BACK FIELD HERE TO LAND PLANES... SMUGGLIN' DOPE. WE FOUND TRACES OF WHAT APPEARS TO BE COCAINE SCATTERED ABOUT.
SOMETHING EVIDENTLY TOOK THE SMUGGLERS BY SURPRISE.
SOMETHING?!
THE BODIES HAVE ALL BEEN SEVERELY MAULED, SUPERMAN. THE CLAW MARKS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE FOUND IN THE CATTLE MUTILATIONS WHICH HAVE LATELY PLAGUED THE REGION...

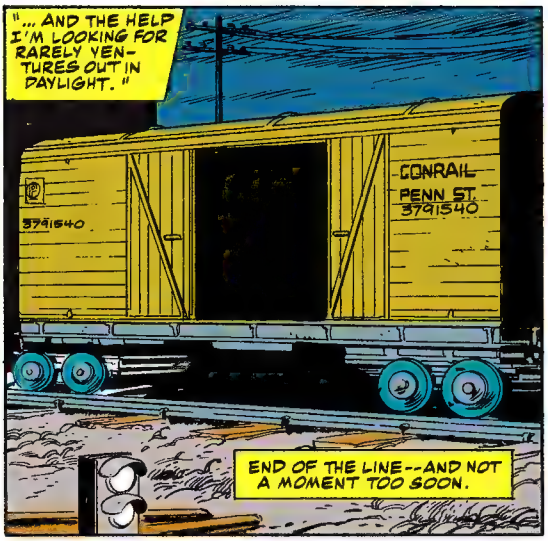
... THAT'S WHAT ORIGINALLY BROUGHT ME TO THIS AREA.
HELP!
EH?
PLEASE!
MY GOD...

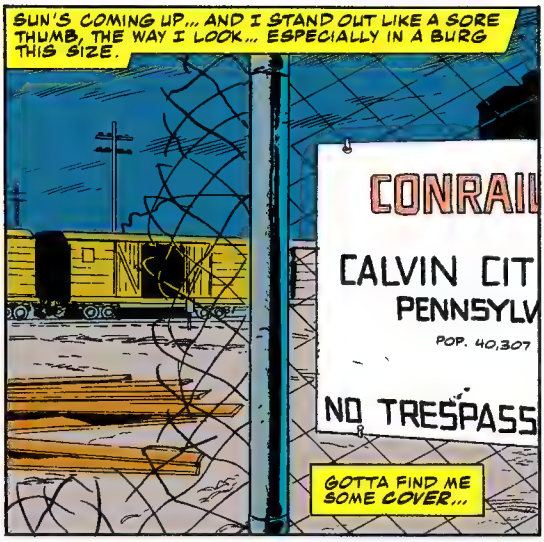

... THERE'S A MAN TRAPPED UNDER HERE!

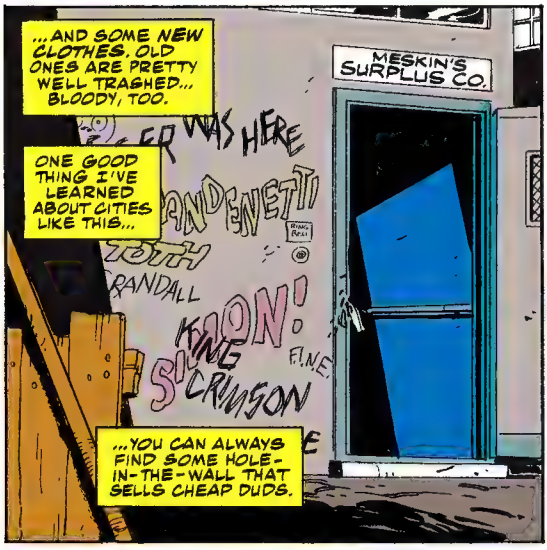

NO, NO! DON'T TRY TO SIT UP... DON'T MOVE AT ALL! IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU STAY STILL!
EASE HIM BACK DOWN GENTLY, JONES. HE'S SUSTAINED SEVERAL FRACTURES...
...LOOKS LIKE HIS LEGS TOOK THE WORST OF IT. HIS MAJOR ORGANS LOOK ALL RIGHT, THOUGH... AND I DON'T SEE ANY SPINE OR PELVIS DAMAGE.
LORD, IT'S NATE! I'D HOPED THAT HE WASN'T INVOLVED.
HE'S A LUCKY MAN... THE EDGES OF THIS DITCH SAVED HIM FROM BEING CRUSHED!
MR. WINSLOW? WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU... YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.
CAN YOU TALK? DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?
MONSTER... CAME OUTTA NOWHERE. KILT TH' OTHERS. DUMPED M' TRUCK... RIGHT ON TOP'A ME!
A MONSTER?!
CALLED HISSELF... JACKAL!
HEY, SHERIFF!
THERE'S SOME KINDA WEIRD TRACKS...HEADIN' OFF THROUGH THE CORN!
AH-HAH!
WHOEVER OR WHATEVER THIS "JACKAL" IS, HIS HEAT TRAIL STANDS OUT LIKE A BEACON TO MY EYES. IT LEADS...

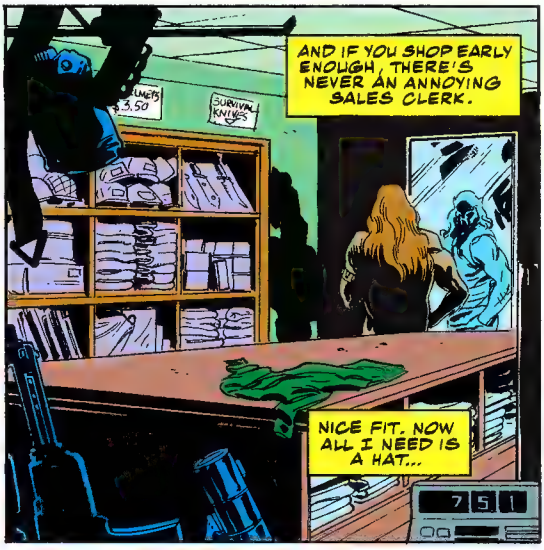
...RIGHT TO THESE CONRAIL TRACKS!
LOOKS LIKE TRAINS HAVE PASSED BOTH WAYS TONIGHT!
YES, I CAN SEE A SWITCHING SPUR ABOUT A MILE AWAY. NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER HE WENT EAST OR WEST.
END OF THE TRAIL FOR SUPERMAN. FROM HERE LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALL UP TO...
...CLARK?
THIS IS TURNING INTO A REAL PUZZLE. AND TO THINK, IF I HADN'T FLOWN OUT TO VISIT MA AND PA, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE STUMBLED ACROSS IT.
CLARK KENT! YOU WOKE ME OUT OF A SOUND SLEEP--
--TO HELP YOU! THE LEAST YOU CAN DO IS ANSWER ME!
I ASKED HOW IT WAS GOING.
EH? OH... SORRY, LOIS. WHAT DID YOU SAY?
SLOW. THE INFO YOU PULLED FROM THE FILES HAS BEEN A BIG HELP...
...BUT IT'S RAISED MORE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERED NONE! THE OHIO MURDERS CROSS-REFERENCE WITH OTHER "UNEXPLAINED" KILLINGS! I NEED A LOT MORE DATA--
--AND A COMPUTER MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED THAN THE DAILY PLANET'S TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
MAYBE KITTY FAULKNER COULD FIND US SOME TIME ON S.T.A.R. LABS' MAINFRAME... BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'LL NEED SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A COMPUTER TO FIND THIS KILLER.
SHERLOCK--? OF COURSE!


MMPH-MMM...
...WELL! THAT'S A BETTER EYE-OPENER THAN DELI COFFEE ANY TIME! BUT WHAT BROUGHT THAT ON?
THAT WAS FOR PROVIDING CONSTANT INSPIRATION... NOT TO MENTION BEING BEAUTIFUL AND BRAINY!
YOU SWEET TALKER... TELL ME MORE!
I'D LOVE TO, HON--
--BUT DUTY CALLS--
--AND I REALLY HAVE TO FLY!
TELL THE CHIEF I'M ON TO A HOT STORY! LOVE YOU!
AND I LOVE YOU.
TAKE CARE, CLARK... TAKE GOOD CARE.
"A SHERLOCK HOLMES AND A COMPUTER," EH? I KNOW WHERE I CAN FIND BOTH. BUT I'D BETTER STEP ON IT. DAWN'S BREAKING...


"... AND THE HELP I'M LOOKING FOR RARELY VENTURES OUT IN DAYLIGHT."
CONRAIL
PENN ST.
3791540
3791540
END OF THE LINE--AND NOT A MOMENT TOO SOON.


SUN'S COMING UP... AND I STAND OUT LIKE A SORE THUMB, THE WAY I LOOK... ESPECIALLY IN A BURG THIS SIZE.
CONRAIL
CALVIN CIT
PENNSYLV
POP. 40,307
NO TRESPASS
GOTTA FIND ME SOME COVER...

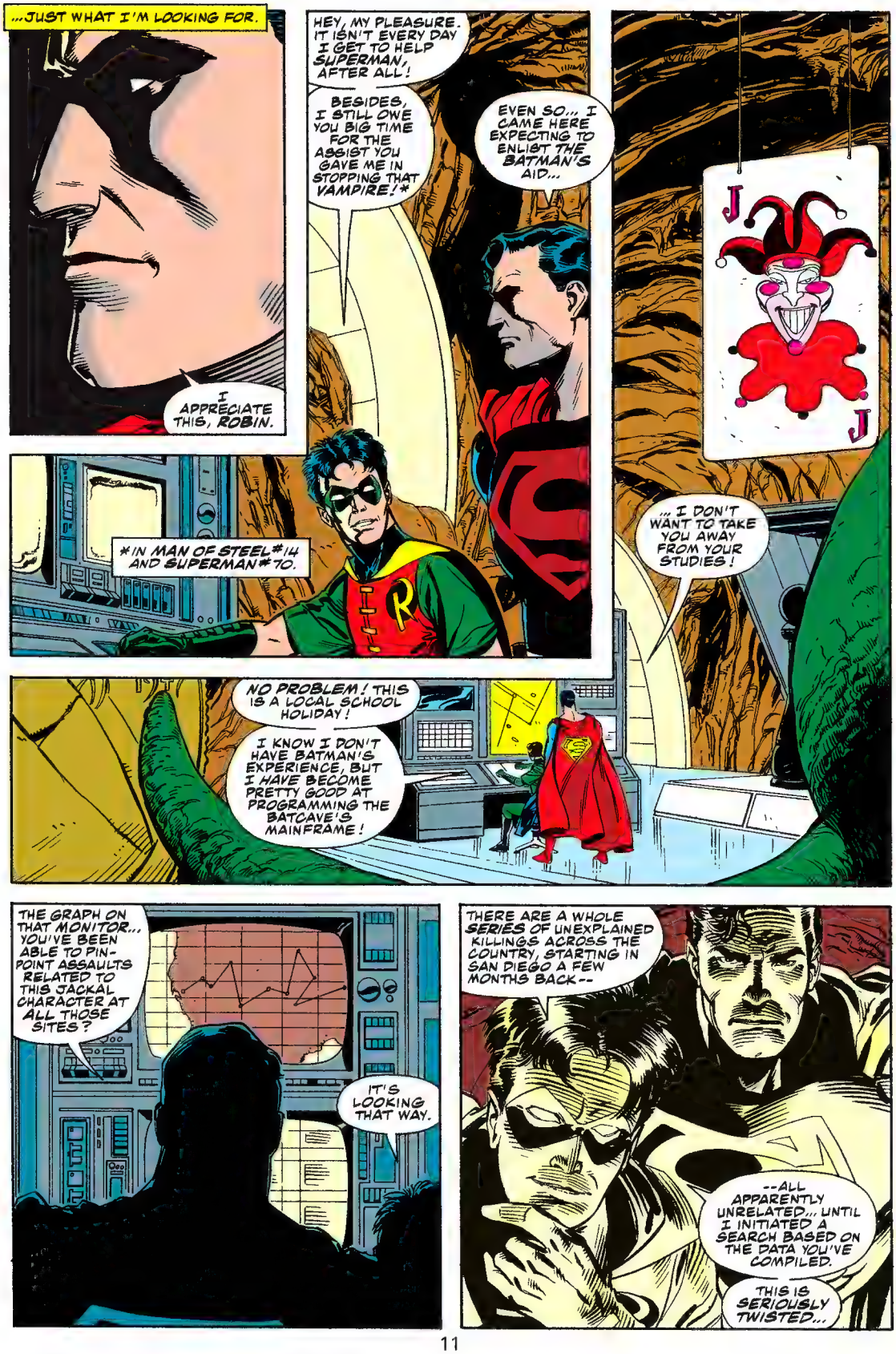

...AND SOME NEW CLOTHES. OLD ONES ARE PRETTY WELL TRASHED... BLOODY, TOO.
MESKIN'S SURPLUS CO.
ONE GOOD THING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT CITIES LIKE THIS...
...YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND SOME HOLE-IN-THE-WALL THAT SELLS CHEAP DUDS.

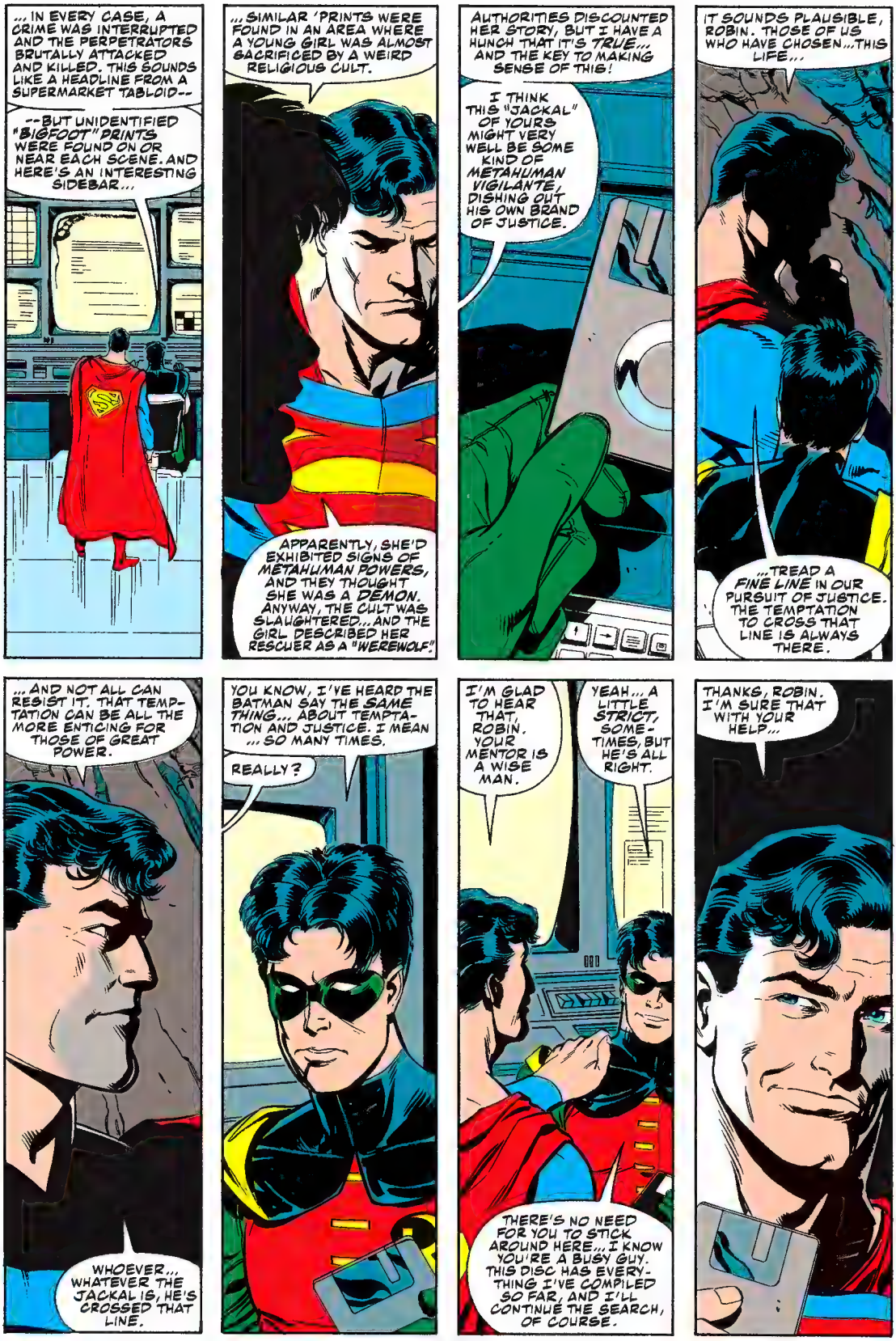

AND IF YOU SHOP EARLY ENOUGH, THERE'S NEVER AN ANNOYING SALES CLERK.
NICE FIT. NOW ALL I NEED IS A HAT...

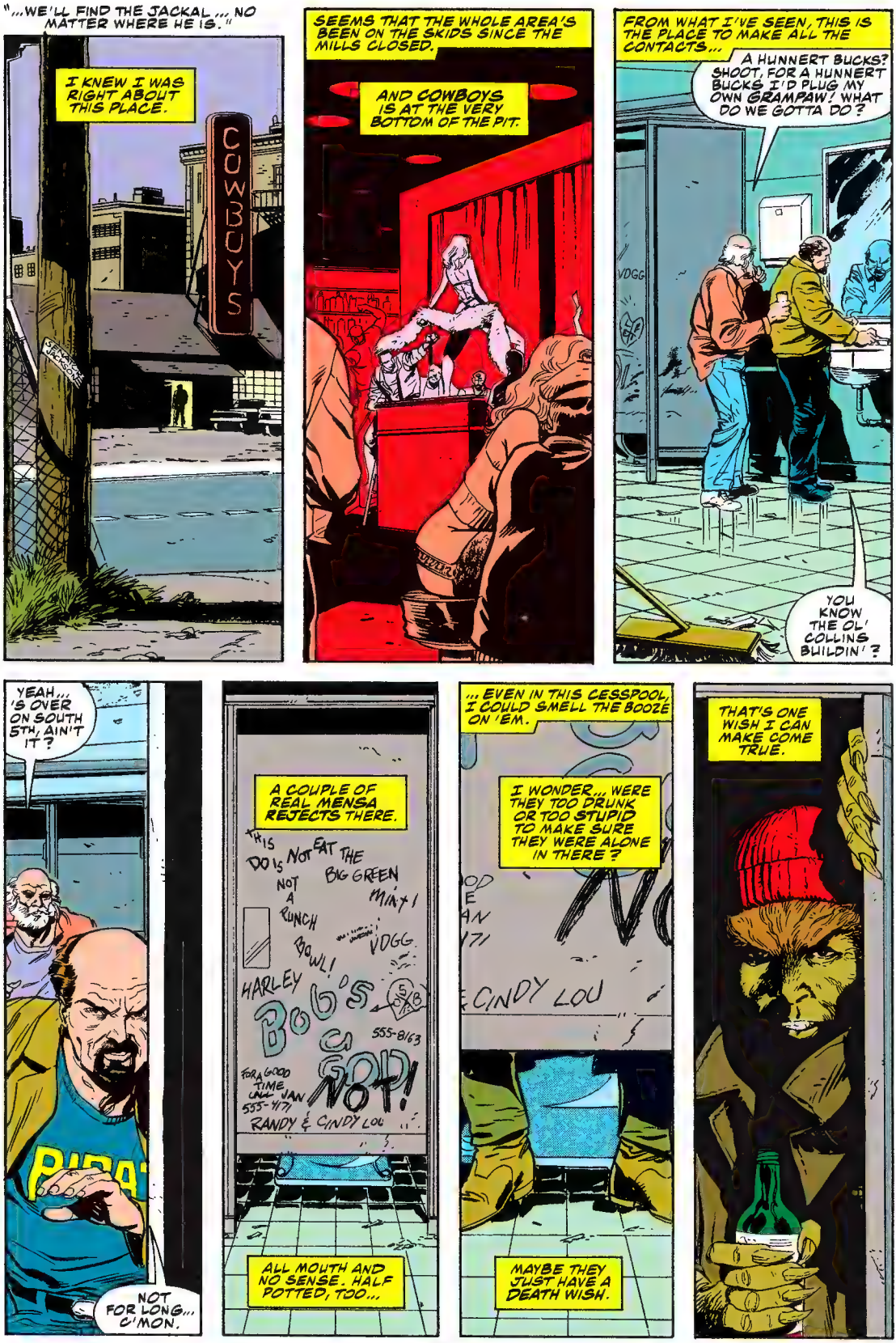
...SOMETHING THAT I CAN TUCK MY HAIR UP UNDER... SOMETHING TO HIDE THE EARS.
THIS SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

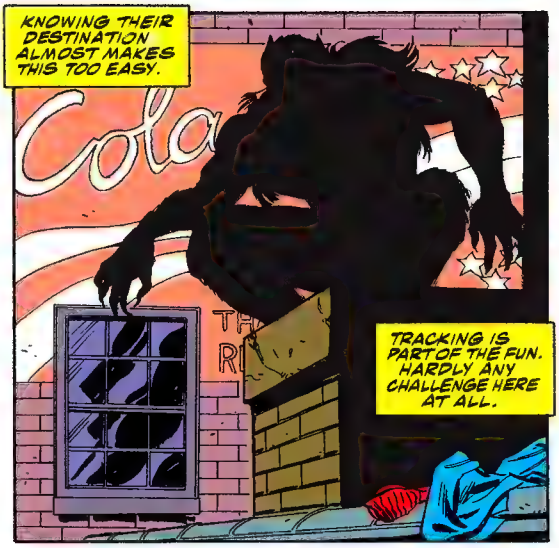
YEAH. NO ONE'LL GIVE ME A SECOND LOOK NOW... 'LONG AS I STICK TO THE ROUGHER PARTS OF TOWN...
...AND THAT'S DEFINITELY IN MY GAME PLAN!

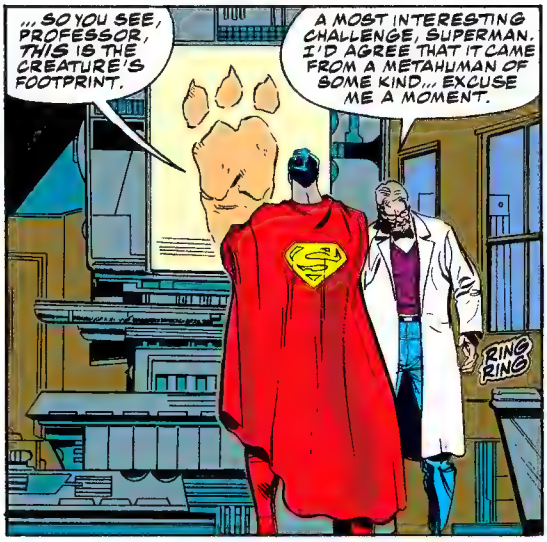
THAT'S WHERE I FIND MY PREY.
THE NEIGHBORHOOD OUTSIDE HAS THE SMELL OF A REAL HELLHOLE...


...JUST WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
I APPRECIATE THIS, ROBIN.
HEY, MY PLEASURE. IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET TO HELP SUPERMAN, AFTER ALL!
BESIDES, I STILL OWE YOU BIG TIME FOR THE ASSIST YOU GAVE ME IN STOPPING THAT VAMPIRE!*
EVEN SO... I CAME HERE EXPECTING TO ENLIST THE BATMAN'S AID...
*IN MAN OF STEEL #114 AND SUPERMAN #70.
... I DON'T WANT TO TAKE YOU AWAY FROM YOUR STUDIES!
NO PROBLEM! THIS IS A LOCAL SCHOOL HOLIDAY!
I KNOW I DON'T HAVE BATMAN'S EXPERIENCE, BUT I HAVE BECOME PRETTY GOOD AT PROGRAMMING THE BATCAVE'S MAINFRAME!
THE GRAPH ON THAT MONITOR... YOU'VE BEEN ABLE TO PIN-POINT ASSAULTS RELATED TO THIS JACKAL CHARACTER AT ALL THOSE SITES?
IT'S LOOKING THAT WAY.
THERE ARE A WHOLE SERIES OF UNEXPLAINED KILLINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY, STARTING IN SAN DIEGO A FEW MONTHS BACK--
--ALL APPARENTLY UNRELATED... UNTIL I INITIATED A SEARCH BASED ON THE DATA YOU'VE COMPILED.
THIS IS SERIOUSLY TWISTED...

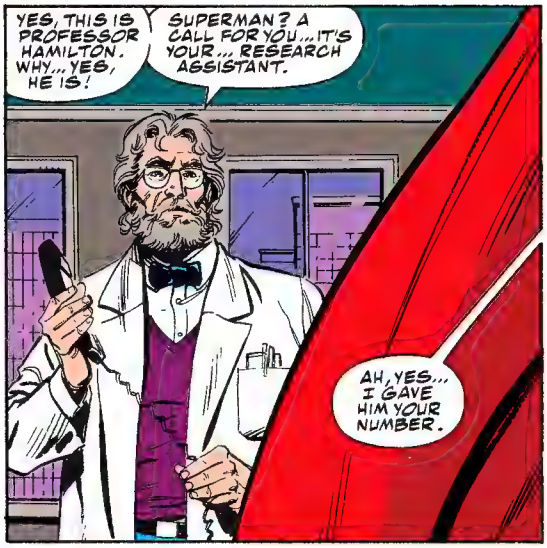

...IN EVERY CASE, A CRIME WAS INTERRUPTED AND THE PERPETRATORS BRUTALLY ATTACKED AND KILLED. THIS SOUNDS LIKE A HEADLINE FROM A SUPERMARKET TABLOID--
--BUT UNIDENTIFIED "BIGFOOT" PRINTS WERE FOUND ON OR NEAR EACH SCENE. AND HERE'S AN INTERESTING SIDEBAR...
...SIMILAR 'PRINTS WERE FOUND IN AN AREA WHERE A YOUNG GIRL WAS ALMOST SACRIFICED BY A WEIRD RELIGIOUS CULT.
APPARENTLY, SHE'D EXHIBITED SIGNS OF METAHUMAN POWERS, AND THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS A DEMON. ANYWAY, THE CULT WAS SLAUGHTERED... AND THE GIRL DESCRIBED HER RESCUER AS A "WEREWOLF."
AUTHORITIES DISCOUNTED HER STORY, BUT I HAVE A HUNCH THAT IT'S TRUE... AND THE KEY TO MAKING SENSE OF THIS!
I THINK THIS "JACKAL" OF YOURS MIGHT VERY WELL BE SOME KIND OF METAHUMAN VIGILANTE, DISHING OUT HIS OWN BRAND OF JUSTICE.
IT SOUNDS PLAUSIBLE, ROBIN. THOSE OF US WHO HAVE CHOSEN...THIS LIFE...
...TREAD A FINE LINE IN OUR PURSUIT OF JUSTICE. THE TEMPTATION TO CROSS THAT LINE IS ALWAYS THERE.
...AND NOT ALL CAN RESIST IT. THAT TEMPTATION CAN BE ALL THE MORE ENTICING FOR THOSE OF GREAT POWER.
WHOEVER... WHATEVER THE JACKAL IS, HE'S CROSSED THAT LINE.
YOU KNOW, I'VE HEARD THE BATMAN SAY THE SAME THING... ABOUT TEMPTATION AND JUSTICE. I MEAN ... SO MANY TIMES.
REALLY?
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, ROBIN. YOUR MENTOR IS A WISE MAN.
YEAH... A LITTLE STRICT, SOMETIMES, BUT HE'S ALL RIGHT.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO STICK AROUND HERE... I KNOW YOU'RE A BUSY GUY. THIS DISC HAS EVERYTHING I'VE COMPILED SO FAR, AND I'LL CONTINUE THE SEARCH, OF COURSE.
THANKS, ROBIN. I'M SURE THAT WITH YOUR HELP...


"...WE'LL FIND THE JACKAL... NO MATTER WHERE HE IS."
I KNEW I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THIS PLACE.
COWBOYS
SEEMS THAT THE WHOLE AREA'S BEEN ON THE SKIDS SINCE THE MILLS CLOSED.
AND COWBOYS IS AT THE VERY BOTTOM OF THE PIT.
FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN, THIS IS THE PLACE TO MAKE ALL THE CONTACTS...
A HUNNERT BUCKS? SHOOT, FOR A HUNNERT BUCKS I'D PLUG MY OWN GRAMPAW! WHAT DO WE GOTTA DO?
YOU KNOW THE OL' COLLINS BUILDIN'?
YEAH... 'S OVER ON SOUTH 5TH, AIN'T IT?
NOT FOR LONG... C'MON.
A COUPLE OF REAL MENSA REJECTS THERE.
THIS IS NOT A DO EAT THE BIG GREEN MINT!
PUNCH
BOWL!
VDGG
HARLEY
BOB'S
555-8163
FOR A GOOD TIME CALL JAN 555-4171
RANDY & CINDY LOU
GOD NO!
ALL MOUTH AND NO SENSE. HALF POTTED, TOO...
...EVEN IN THIS CESSPOOL, I COULD SMELL THE BOOZE ON 'EM.
I WONDER... WERE THEY TOO DRUNK OR TOO STUPID TO MAKE SURE THEY WERE ALONE IN THERE?
CINDY LOU
MAYBE THEY JUST HAVE A DEATH WISH.
THAT'S ONE WISH I CAN MAKE COME TRUE.

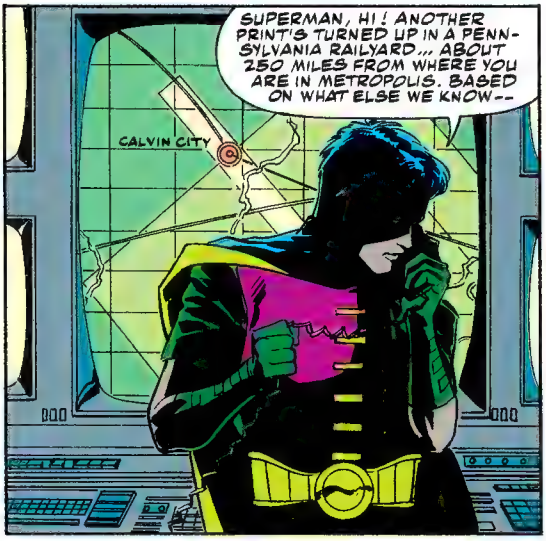

KNOWING THEIR DESTINATION ALMOST MAKES THIS TOO EASY.
Cola
TRACKING IS PART OF THE FUN. HARDLY ANY CHALLENGE HERE AT ALL.

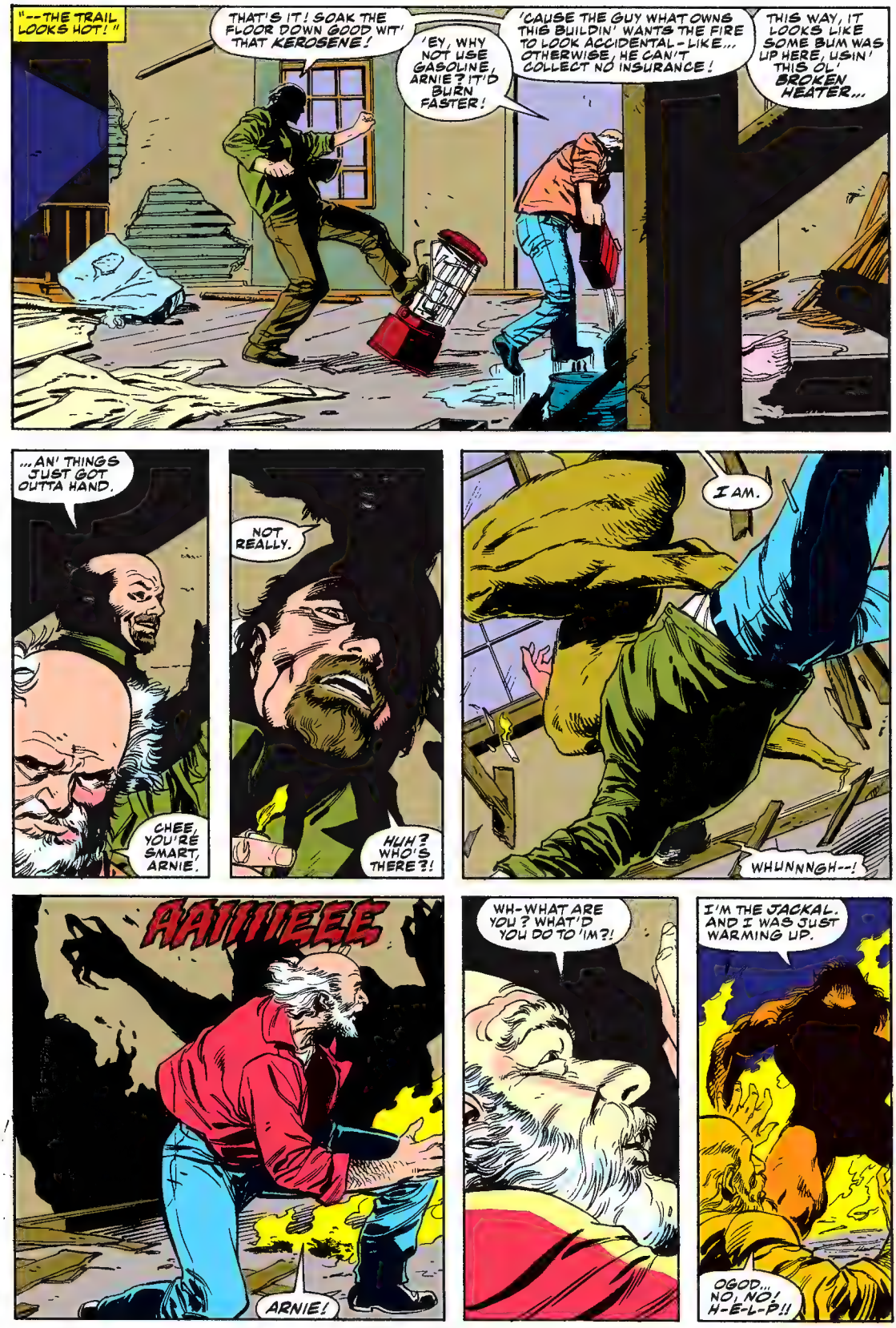

...SO YOU SEE, PROFESSOR, THIS IS THE CREATURE'S FOOTPRINT.
A MOST INTERESTING CHALLENGE, SUPERMAN. I'D AGREE THAT IT CAME FROM A METAHUMAN OF SOME KIND... EXCUSE ME A MOMENT.
RING RING

I'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE MY FUN WITH THEM IN OTHER WAYS.
THEY WON'T LIKE THAT...

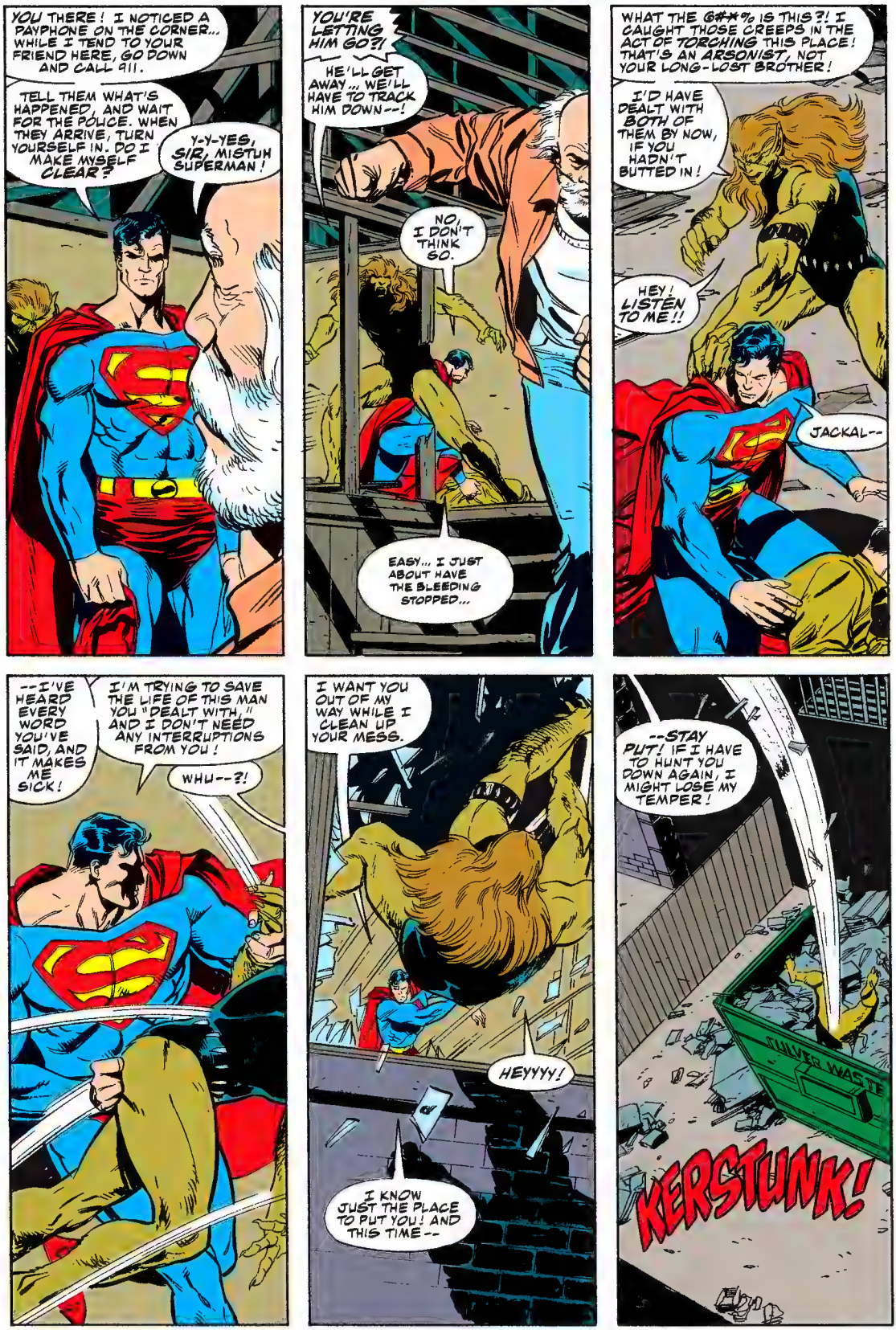

YES, THIS IS PROFESSOR HAMILTON. WHY... YES, HE IS!
SUPERMAN? A CALL FOR YOU... IT'S YOUR... RESEARCH ASSISTANT.
AH, YES... I GAVE HIM YOUR NUMBER.

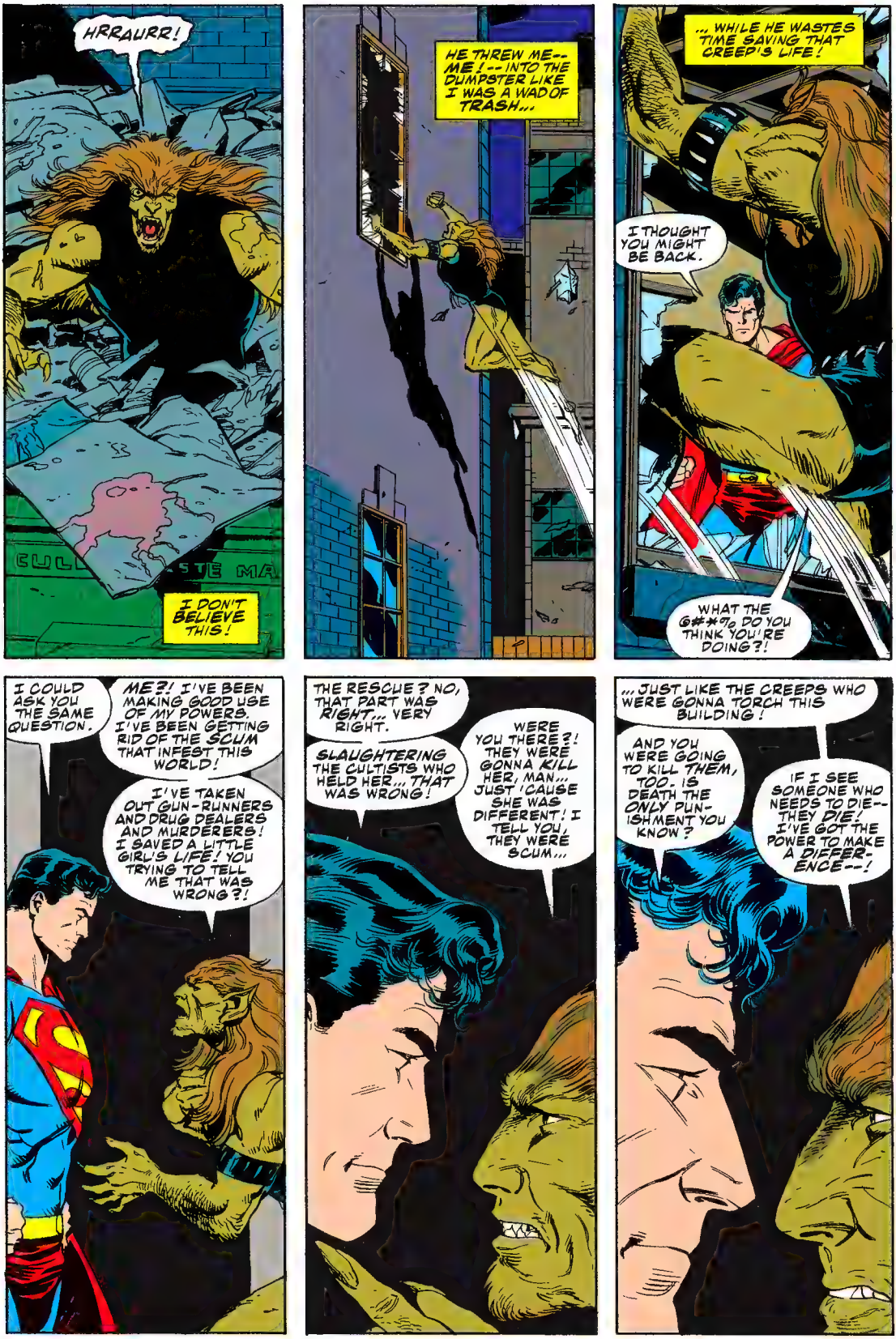
...BUT I WILL.
STAIRS

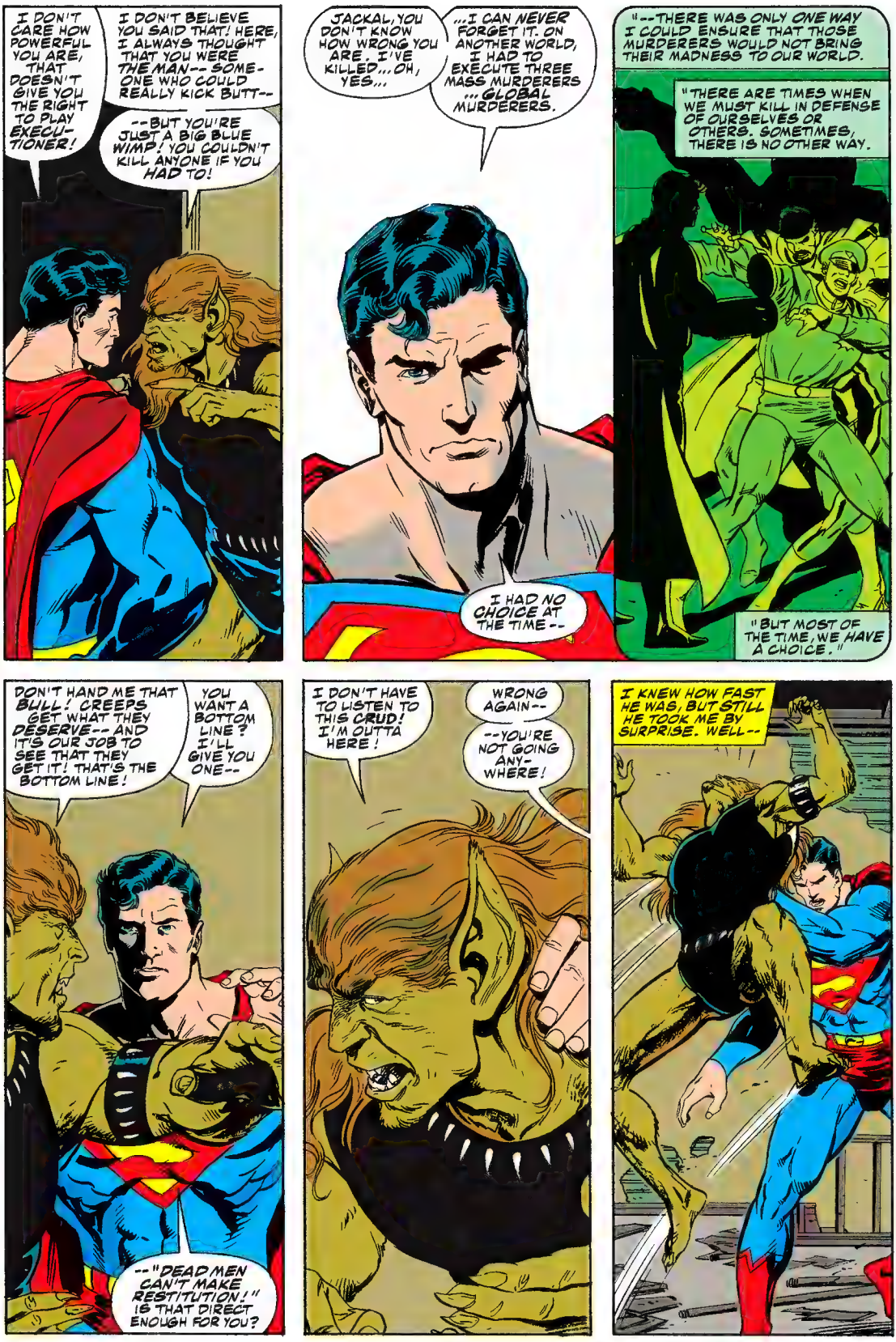

SUPERMAN, HI! ANOTHER PRINT'S TURNED UP IN A PENNSYLVANIA RAILYARD... ABOUT 250 MILES FROM WHERE YOU ARE IN METROPOLIS. BASED ON WHAT ELSE WE KNOW--
CALVIN CITY

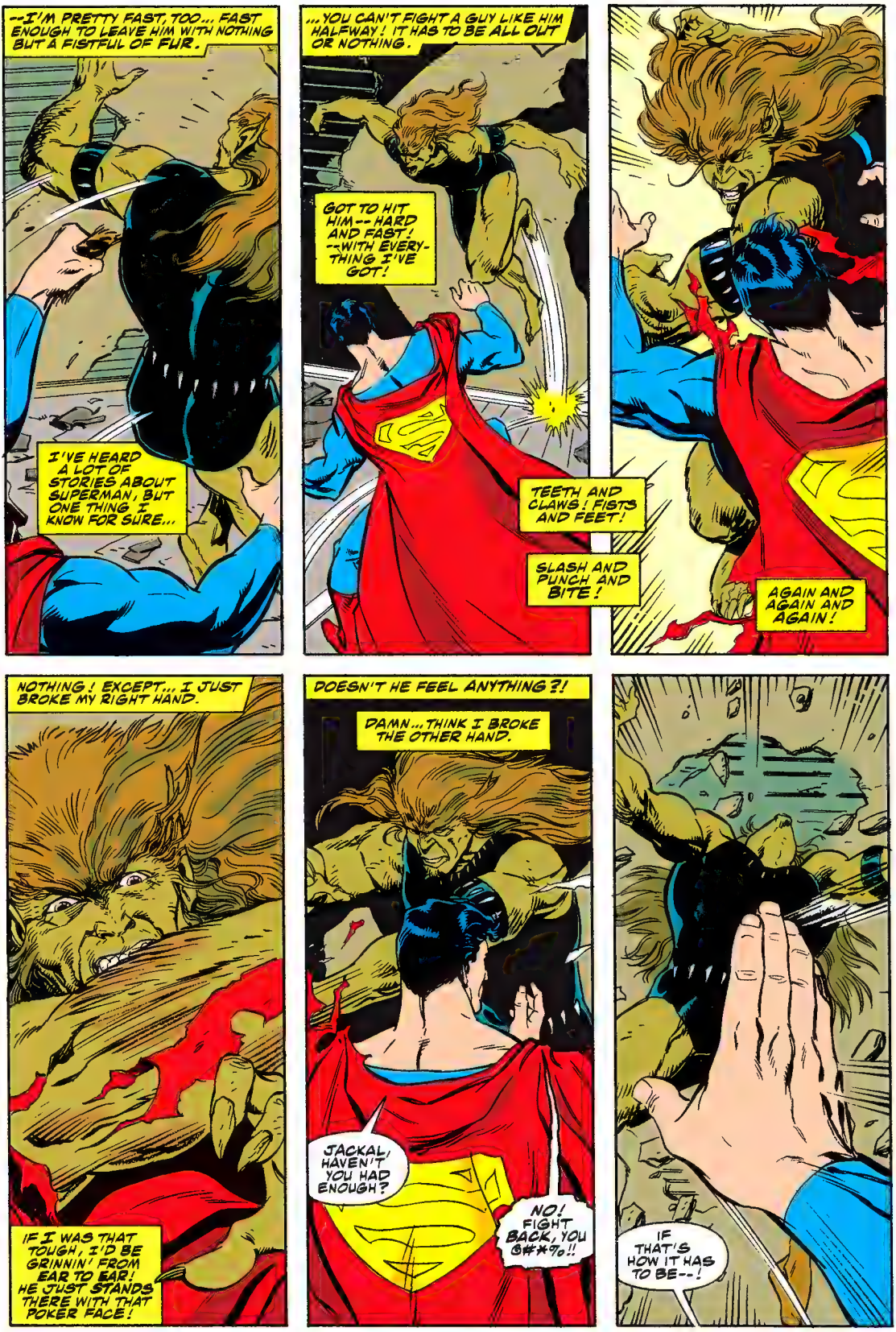

"--THE TRAIL LOOKS HOT!"
THAT'S IT! SOAK THE FLOOR DOWN GOOD WIT' THAT KEROSENE!
'EY, WHY NOT USE GASOLINE, ARNIE? IT'D BURN FASTER!
'CAUSE THE GUY WHAT OWNS THIS BUILDIN' WANTS THE FIRE TO LOOK ACCIDENTAL-LIKE... OTHERWISE, HE CAN'T COLLECT NO INSURANCE!
THIS WAY, IT LOOKS LIKE SOME BUM WAS UP HERE, USIN' THIS OL' BROKEN HEATER...
...AN' THINGS JUST GOT OUTTA HAND.
CHEE, YOU'RE SMART, ARNIE.
NOT REALLY.
HUH? WHO'S THERE?!
I AM.
WHUNNNGH--!
AAIIIEEE
ARNIE!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU? WHAT'D YOU DO TO 'IM?!
I'M THE JACKAL. AND I WAS JUST WARMING UP.
OGOD... NO, NO! H-E-L-P!!

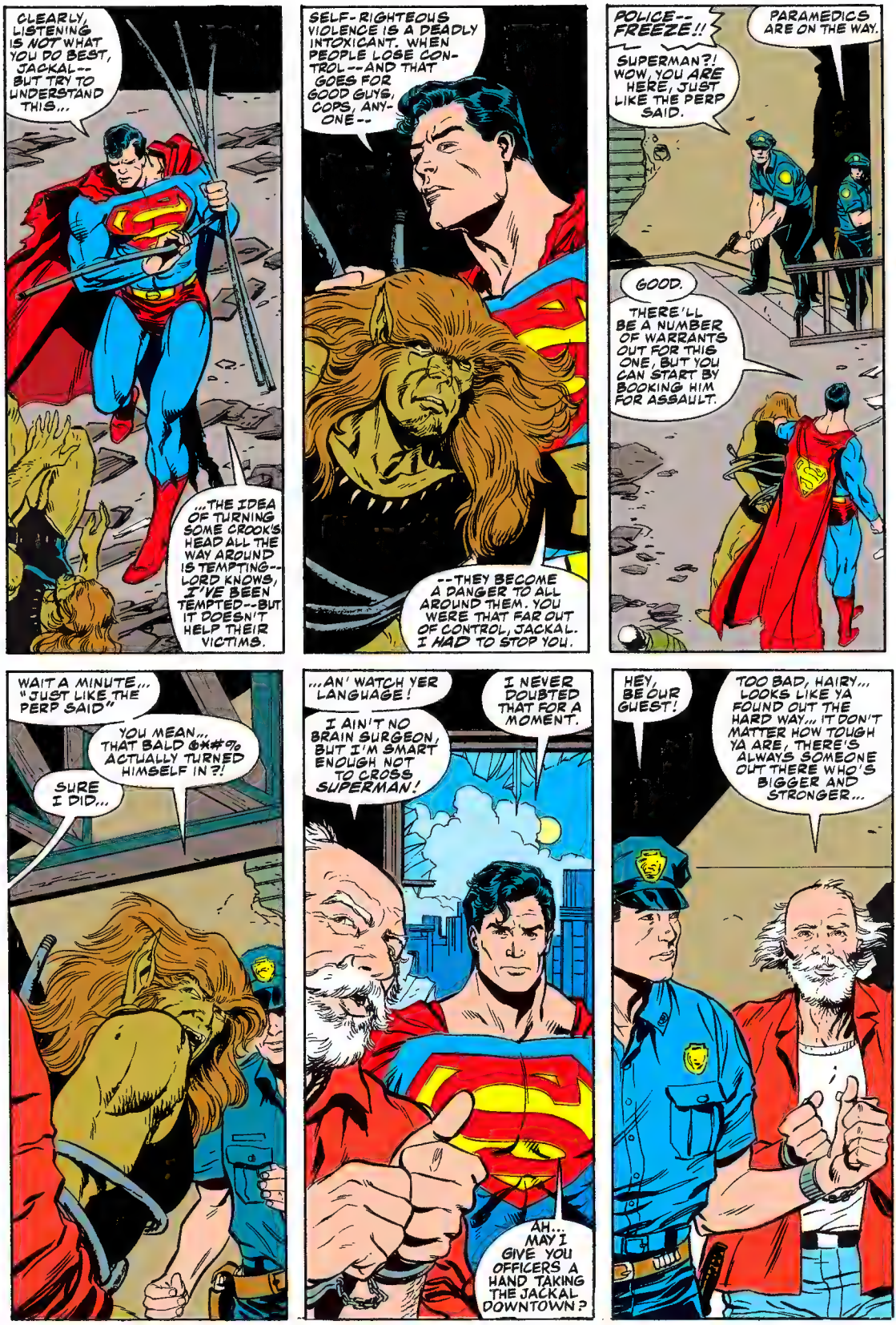
I'M IN MID-LEAP WHEN IT HAPPENS.
SOMETHING COMES CRASHING THROUGH A WINDOW -- SO FAST THAT EVEN I BARELY HAVE TIME TO GET OUT OF THE WAY.
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING MOVE LIKE THAT! IT'S JUST A BLUR -- NO, WAIT! -- IN THE GLARE OF THE FIRE, I SEE...
...A HAND GRABBING UP THAT OLD TARPAULIN!
HE'S EVERYWHERE. I HARDLY CATCH A BREATH, AND HE'S ALMOST FINISHED SMOTHERING THE FIRE.
WHO IS THIS... THE FLASH?
NO. THAT CAPE--!
ONLY ONE GUY WEARS A CAPE LIKE THAT--!
SUPERMAN?
IT'S OKAY. YOU'RE VERY LUCKY... I SPOTTED THE FIRE--!
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BOTHER! NO FIRE WOULD GIVE ME ANY TROUBLE! I GOTTA ADMIT, THOUGH, IT'S A THRILL--
--MEETING YOU ON THE JOB LIKE THIS! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, ANYWAY? WERE YOU AFTER THESE ARSONISTS, TOO? OR...
...S-A-Y, IF YOU'RE SCOUTING ME FOR THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, I GOTTA TELL YOU UP FRONT--I'M STRICTLY A LONER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MAKING BANDAGES.
IF YOU'RE THE JACKAL, I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU, ALL RIGHT! STAND RIGHT THERE... I'LL DEAL WITH YOU IN A MOMENT!

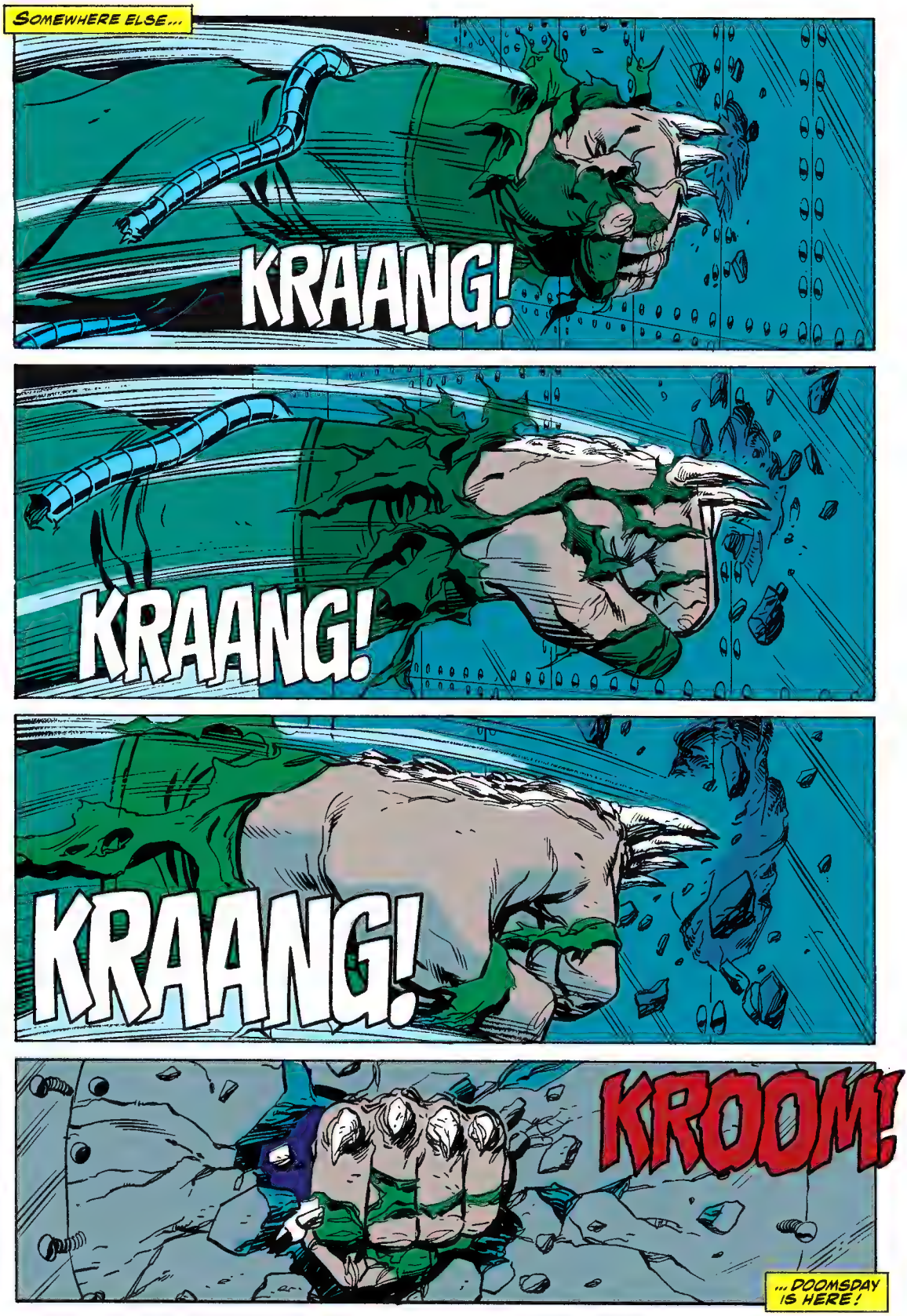

YOU THERE! I NOTICED A PAYPHONE ON THE CORNER... WHILE I TEND TO YOUR FRIEND HERE, GO DOWN AND CALL 911.
TELL THEM WHAT'S HAPPENED, AND WAIT FOR THE POLICE. WHEN THEY ARRIVE, TURN YOURSELF IN. DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR?
Y-Y-YES, SIR, MISTUH SUPERMAN!
YOU'RE LETTING HIM GO?!
HE'LL GET AWAY... WE'LL HAVE TO TRACK HIM DOWN--!
NO, I DON'T THINK SO.
EASY... I JUST ABOUT HAVE THE BLEEDING STOPPED...
WHAT THE G#%* IS THIS?! I CAUGHT THOSE CREEPS IN THE ACT OF TORCHING THIS PLACE! THAT'S AN ARSONIST, NOT YOUR LONG-LOST BROTHER!
I'D HAVE DEALT WITH BOTH OF THEM BY NOW, IF YOU HADN'T BUTTED IN!
HEY! LISTEN TO ME!!
JACKAL--
--I'VE HEARD EVERY WORD YOU'VE SAID, AND IT MAKES ME SICK!
I'M TRYING TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THIS MAN YOU "DEALT WITH," AND I DON'T NEED ANY INTERRUPTIONS FROM YOU!
WHU--?!
I WANT YOU OUT OF MY WAY WHILE I CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.
HEYYYY!
I KNOW JUST THE PLACE TO PUT YOU! AND THIS TIME--
--STAY PUT! IF I HAVE TO HUNT YOU DOWN AGAIN, I MIGHT LOSE MY TEMPER!
SILVER WASTE
KERSTUNK!


HRRAURR!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!
HE THREW ME-- ME!--INTO THE DUMPSTER LIKE I WAS A WAD OF TRASH...
... WHILE HE WASTES TIME SAVING THAT CREEP'S LIFE!
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE BACK.
WHAT THE @#*% DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.
ME?! I'VE BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF MY POWERS. I'VE BEEN GETTING RID OF THE SCUM THAT INFEST THIS WORLD!
I'VE TAKEN OUT GUN-RUNNERS AND DRUG DEALERS AND MURDERERS! I SAVED A LITTLE GIRL'S LIFE! YOU TRYING TO TELL ME THAT WAS WRONG?!
THE RESCUE? NO, THAT PART WAS RIGHT... VERY RIGHT.
SLAUGHTERING THE CULTISTS WHO HELD HER... THAT WAS WRONG!
WERE YOU THERE?! THEY WERE GONNA KILL HER, MAN... JUST 'CAUSE SHE WAS DIFFERENT! I TELL YOU, THEY WERE SCUM...
... JUST LIKE THE CREEPS WHO WERE GONNA TORCH THIS BUILDING!
AND YOU WERE GOING TO KILL THEM, TOO. IS DEATH THE ONLY PUNISHMENT YOU KNOW?
IF I SEE SOMEONE WHO NEEDS TO DIE-- THEY DIE! I'VE GOT THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE--!


I DON'T CARE HOW POWERFUL YOU ARE, THAT DOESN'T GIVE YOU THE RIGHT TO PLAY EXECU-TIONER!
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT! HERE, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE THE MAN-- SOME-ONE WHO COULD REALLY KICK BUTT--
--BUT YOU'RE JUST A BIG BLUE WIMP! YOU COULDN'T KILL ANYONE IF YOU HAD TO!
JACKAL, YOU DON'T KNOW HOW WRONG YOU ARE. I'VE KILLED... OH, YES...
...I CAN NEVER FORGET IT. ON ANOTHER WORLD, I HAD TO EXECUTE THREE MASS MURDERERS ...GLOBAL MURDERERS.
I HAD NO CHOICE AT THE TIME--
"--THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY I COULD ENSURE THAT THOSE MURDERERS WOULD NOT BRING THEIR MADNESS TO OUR WORLD.
"THERE ARE TIMES WHEN WE MUST KILL IN DEFENSE OF OURSELVES OR OTHERS. SOMETIMES, THERE IS NO OTHER WAY.
"BUT MOST OF THE TIME, WE HAVE A CHOICE."
DON'T HAND ME THAT BULL! CREEPS GET WHAT THEY DESERVE-- AND IT'S OUR JOB TO SEE THAT THEY GET IT! THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE!
YOU WANT A BOTTOM LINE? I'LL GIVE YOU ONE--
--"DEAD MEN CAN'T MAKE RESTITUTION!" IS THAT DIRECT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO THIS CRUD! I'M OUTTA HERE!
WRONG AGAIN--
--YOU'RE NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!
I KNEW HOW FAST HE WAS, BUT STILL HE TOOK ME BY SURPRISE. WELL--


--I'M PRETTY FAST, TOO... FAST ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIM WITH NOTHING BUT A FISTFUL OF FUR.
I'VE HEARD A LOT OF STORIES ABOUT SUPERMAN, BUT ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE...
...YOU CAN'T FIGHT A GUY LIKE HIM HALFWAY! IT HAS TO BE ALL OUT OR NOTHING.
GOT TO HIT HIM-- HARD AND FAST! --WITH EVERY-THING I'VE GOT!
TEETH AND CLAWS! FISTS AND FEET!
SLASH AND PUNCH AND BITE!
AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN!
NOTHING! EXCEPT... I JUST BROKE MY RIGHT HAND.
IF I WAS THAT TOUGH, I'D BE GRINNIN' FROM EAR TO EAR! HE JUST STANDS THERE WITH THAT POKER FACE!
DOESN'T HE FEEL ANYTHING?!
DAMN... THINK I BROKE THE OTHER HAND.
JACKAL, HAVEN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH?
NO! FIGHT BACK, YOU @#*%!!
IF THAT'S HOW IT HAS TO BE--!


CLEARLY, LISTENING IS NOT WHAT YOU DO BEST, JACKAL-- BUT TRY TO UNDERSTAND THIS...
...THE IDEA OF TURNING SOME CROOK'S HEAD ALL THE WAY AROUND IS TEMPTING-- LORD KNOWS, I'VE BEEN TEMPTED--BUT IT DOESN'T HELP THEIR VICTIMS.
SELF-RIGHTEOUS VIOLENCE IS A DEADLY INTOXICANT. WHEN PEOPLE LOSE CONTROL--AND THAT GOES FOR GOOD GUYS, COPS, ANYONE--
--THEY BECOME A DANGER TO ALL AROUND THEM. YOU WERE THAT FAR OUT OF CONTROL, JACKAL. I HAD TO STOP YOU.
POLICE-- FREEZE!!
PARAMEDICS ARE ON THE WAY.
SUPERMAN?! WOW, YOU ARE HERE, JUST LIKE THE PERP SAID.
GOOD.
THERE'LL BE A NUMBER OF WARRANTS OUT FOR THIS ONE, BUT YOU CAN START BY BOOKING HIM FOR ASSAULT.
WAIT A MINUTE... "JUST LIKE THE PERP SAID"
YOU MEAN... THAT BALD @%#% ACTUALLY TURNED HIMSELF IN?!
SURE I DID...
...AN' WATCH YER LANGUAGE!
I AIN'T NO BRAIN SURGEON, BUT I'M SMART ENOUGH NOT TO CROSS SUPERMAN!
I NEVER DOUBTED THAT FOR A MOMENT.
AH... MAY I GIVE YOU OFFICERS A HAND TAKING THE JACKAL DOWNTOWN?
HEY, BE OUR GUEST!
TOO BAD, HAIRY... LOOKS LIKE YA FOUND OUT THE HARD WAY... IT DON'T MATTER HOW TOUGH YA ARE, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO'S BIGGER AND STRONGER...


SOMEWHERE ELSE...
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KRAANG!
KROOM!
...DOOMSDAY IS HERE!

Superman Post-Crisis Chronology
Volume 061 Here Be Monsters

"The Hand That Robs the Cradle!", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #495, released August, 1992
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Doug Hazlewood (inker)

"Gauntlet", first appeared in Action Comics issue #682, released August, 1992
Roger Stern (writer), Dusty Abell (penciller), Terry Austin (inker)

"Actions, Admissions, & Acquisitions", first appeared in Justice League America issue #68, released September, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Rick Burchett (inker)

"Here Be Monsters", first appeared in Superman: The Man of Steel issue #17, released September, 1992
Louise Jones Simonson (writer), Jon Bogdanove (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"Time Ryders", first appeared in Superman issue #73, released September, 1992
Dan Jurgens (writer), Brett Breeding (penciller), Dan Jurgens (penciller), Brett Breeding (inker), Dan Jurgens (inker)

"Truth and Consequences", first appeared in The Adventures of Superman issue #496, released September, 1992
Jerry Ordway (writer), Tom Grummett (penciller), Dennis Janke (inker)

"The Trail of the Jackal", first appeared in Action Comics issue #683, released September, 1992
Roger Stern (writer), Jackson Butch Guice (penciller), Denis Rodier (inker), Jackson Butch Guice (inker)

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495
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IN SUPER-TOWN!

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THE MAN OF STEEL-- ONE OF THE FOREVER PEOPLE?!

GRUMMETT/HAZLEWOOD

682
OCT 92
SUPERMAN
IN ACTION COMICS
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TECH
SUPERMAN
...AT THE HANDS OF HI-TECH!
DOOMSDAY IS COMING!
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ABELL + AUSTIN

THE THING THAT OWNED THE EARTH!

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA

JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA

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WHAT ARE YOU EARTHLINGS DOING WITH MY PROPERTY?!

JURGENS '92

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DOOMSDAY IS COMING!
THE UNDERWORLD RISES AGAIN!

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WHO SEZ MY CAMPAIGN DOESN'T HAVE A STEADY PLATFO--
WHOOPSIE!
MXYZPTLK --NO!
MXYZPTLK
DOOMSDAY IS COMING!
BY ORDWAY & JANKE

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NIGHT OF THE JACKAL!
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